

Wichita State University
Classified Senate
Lloyd Harp, President

Senate Website:
webs.wichita.edu/classified

Senate Listserv:
wsuclass@majordomo.twsu.edu

Classified Times



Keeping the WSU Classified Staff Informed!

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Tuition Assistance Deadlines:

?? At least one month
before the class begins.

?? At least two weeks
before a CMD seminar.

Guidelines and applications
are available at Human Re-
sources (ext. 6122), or on-
line at the Human Resources
Website.

Letter from Lloyd

Welcome to the 2004 – 2005 term of the Classified Senate. We have new members on the Senate this year that are just learning what we are all about, and some seasoned veterans that bring a wealth of experience to the Senate.

Senate committees are hard at work. The Tree Lighting and Meet Your Classified Senator committees have set dates for their prospective projects. The Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 1st at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge and then at 2:30 p.m. north of the RSC we will turn on the switch to light up the tree. The other event, Meet Your Classified Senator, will also be held at the Fireside Lounge on December 7th between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. This is an open house where your Classified Senators will meet and greet their fellow classified employees. Refreshments will be served. I hope to meet many classified employees at these events!

Another committee that was formed for the first time last year, Community Service, has hit the ground running. By the time you get this newsletter you should know of their first project, to send care packages to soldiers serving overseas during the Holiday Season. I know they would rather be home with their families, but have made the sacrifice for freedom. I feel that this is a very worthy project that will depend on departments, small groups and individuals to make it work.

The legislative committee has met and developed a paper which we took to the Kansas Council of Classified Senates in October. There we came up with a joint Position Paper with members of other Classified Senates and Assemblies from the Regents Schools. This paper requests improved Salaries, better Benefits, and enhanced Retirement guidelines. For the details of this Position Paper, which will be taken to the Legislature in February, you can ask your Senator or check it out on our website.

I look forward to serving you as Classified Senate President this year. I encourage you to take a part in the Senate by contacting your Senator for updates and ideas, and by getting involved in our sponsored events. We are all a part of the university community and together we will make a difference.

Lloyd Harp

Adopt a Soldier for the Holidays!

Deadline to Mail is Dec. 1st

The Classified Senate is asking the university community to support a group of Fort Riley soldiers on their way to Iraq.

We want to send packages to soldiers in time for the holiday season. Many soldiers don't have family members or loved ones here in the

states and may not receive anything in the mail.

You can brighten a soldier's day! Departments, groups and individuals are encouraged to fill a box with items and mail it to a soldier. You or your group would be responsible for purchasing the items and for the postage to

mail the box.

For guidelines on what kinds of items to send, how to package items and box sizes, and to find out how to get the name of a soldier, please go to the Classified Senate website: webs.wichita.edu/classified or contact: janice.holtsclaw@wichita.edu

Dr. Beggs Speaks to the Senate

by Cyndy Hodge, cyndy.hodge@wichita.edu

President Beggs met with the Classified Senate at the October 13 meeting. He has met with the Senate for the past several years and the event is always looked forward to with anticipation by the Senate members.

He spoke of several topics this year with an emphasis on where the university is financially this year and for fiscal year 2006. The university had a larger-than-expected international enrollment for fall semester and fewer local students, however international students are expected to decline in the coming years, as are out-of-state students. The university has planned for fewer international and out-of-state students with the budget and is still in good financial shape; however fiscal year 2006 could be a different story. One of the concerns raised by a senator was the ability for international students to find employment that will allow them to make enough money to remain here during their time at school. Most international students only have visas that allow them to work on campus where many jobs only pay minimum wage. Also, campus jobs can sometimes be at a pre-

mium for international students who may have other considerations such as a language barrier. President Beggs indicated that reports show that Canada, Australia, and China are making a big push for international students which take students away from US institutions.

One of the major concerns on everyone's mind is money for K-12. Neither democrats nor republicans can agree or form a plan to fund this crucial aspect of the state budget and it is now in the hands of the Kansas Supreme Court. It is widely agreed upon that more money is needed for the funding; however a means of providing that money is where the plans fall apart.

Another topic discussed by President Beggs was the 27th paycheck. When the state went to bi-weekly pay it created a 27th paycheck every 11th year which is not budgeted for. It has not been determined yet whether WSU or the state will pay for this check. WSU's payroll for that period is around \$2 million, statewide the figure is \$19 million. The 27th check this

year will be in December's pay period, however funding for the check will have to come from next year's budget. The paycheck will be covered, but President Beggs isn't sure what will be impacted.

WSU will soon be accepting bids on a new research building which is expected to cost around \$10 million. The plan for the building was approved 3 years ago. The state will pay the last 15 years while WSU would pay for the first 5. Another issue is rehabilitation of old buildings. Many need repairs or upgrades. The state does not provide WSU with funds for the maintenance costs for facilities. The last time WSU received any state support for this was 9 years ago, so when adding new buildings, we must also consider the maintenance costs.

And finally, the ERP project is moving rapidly. This is good news as it will enable many of us to perform our job functions easier and help to keep our costs down - and that's always good news!

No Changes to the Health Plan Design - Some Premiums Increase

Connie Landreth, the Benefits Manager for the university, stated at the October 13th Classified Senate meeting that there are no plan design changes for 2005. As you remember, big changes happened on January 1, 2004, more than doubling insurance costs for some folks. Premiums and co-pays both rose causing some employees to drop their health insurance altogether.

Out-of-pocket expenses will go up a little this year and you can check page 22 of the Benefits Summary for information. The state pays 95% of

coverage of the lowest plan for single employees, which is PPK. That plan also pays 35% of the dependent coverage. If you choose another plan, you are paying the difference or "buying up".

The state has discontinued the Health Risk Assessment plan which has been used the past 2 years. Full-time single employee dental plans are free and the dependent cost for dental coverage is listed on page 29.

If you have questions about your plan or coverage, contact Connie Landreth at ext 6121 or Janice Hobbs at ext. 3079.

by Cyndy Hodge, cyndy.hodge@wichita.edu



Spotlight on John Williams

by Mike Purdue, mike.purdue@wichita.edu
and Cyndy Hodge, cyndy.hodge@wichita.edu

Those of us who support the Classified Senate owe some gratitude to John Williams. He was one of the original founders of the Classified Senate in 1983 and wrote the first draft of the Constitution. We've come along way since then and John has come full-circle; back to the senate.

Serving as Vice-President for the 2004-2005 term, he still has many ideas about the direction the senate should take on campus. He is currently chairing an exploratory committee to open Student Health Center facilities for full use by university employees, and is dedicated to helping university employees, especially those in the lower pay grades.

In his employee role, John is Acquisitions Manager in Abalah Library and has made many achievements over the past years. He has co-

authored with faculty members on four scholarly articles and has authored two published articles on postal history aspects of two collections held in University Archives and Special Collections as well as co-developing the Documents Data Miner which organizes Federal Government publications for librarians and citizens. Prior to working at WSU John served four years in the United States Army Security Agency during the Vietnam War as a Russian language translator/interpreter in northern Turkey and Japan.

John feels that the Classified Senate has several areas of focus; that it continue on the path it has been on for the last 5 years which has taken the senate on a more political avenue than it has been in the past years as well as

working on the serious health care issues facing employees, many of whom cannot afford health insurance.

You can e-mail John with questions at:

john.williams@wichita.edu



Graphic by Tom Veltman, tom.veltman@wichita.edu

Department Focus: College of Health Professions

by Lori Evans, lori.evans@wichita.edu

Classified Staff Organization

The Classified Staff Organization (CSO) is a voluntary organization consisting of the administrative support staff within the College of Health Professions. The CSO has been an organized group within the college for four years.

What is the purpose of CSO?

The purpose of the CSO is to foster quality and professionalism in service, support, and communication to students, faculty, staff and alumni of the College of Health Professions and to the community by: (1) improving communication among classified staff members of the college and between classified staff and all other constituencies of the college; (2) providing sup-

port for classified staff; (3) providing service to the college and/or community; (4) establishing goals and activities for the CSO each academic year; and (5) encouraging staff development.

How is CSO structured?

CSO holds elections each year for the following officers: Facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer, Hospitality Coordinator, Events Coordinator, and Newsletter Publisher. The CSO typically meets once a month to discuss issues concerning the CHP and all classified staff.

What type of business is conducted at CSO meetings?

In line with our Mission, CSO stays busy planning and hosting activities which benefit the

College and students in professional growth and financial assistance. A half-day staff retreat is in the planning stages to promote professional development within the organization. Fundraising efforts are a priority for CSO to support the mission and core values of the CHP in valuing students – our primary focus! Each year the CSO brainstorms ideas for fundraising events choosing two or three to plan and implement throughout the year. Monies raised are used to benefit CHP professional students with cash stipends. CSO meetings are an ideal format for information sharing between departments which is critical for the success of the college.

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2004-2005 Classified Senate

Sheila Bates
Donna Belt
Don Brooks
William Cooper
George Corbin
Charles Eaton
Rebecca Espinosa
Lori Evans
Theresa Fisher
Margaret Ford
Susan Fordyce
Lloyd Harp
William Heard
Cyndy Hodge
Janice Holtsclaw
Wanda Hughes
Cathy James
Shelly Kellogg
Garrett Moyer
Billie Norden
Robbie Norton
Val Peck
Ross Pierce
Mike Purdue
Kathy Riker
Willa Shelton
Hugh Thompson
Joyce Ward
Anne Welch
John Williams

Classified Senate Committees

Community Service
Elections
Food Services
Heskett Center Board
Holiday Tree Lighting
Library Appeals
Meet Your Senator
Newsletter
Position Paper
RSC Board
Shocker Pride Picnic
Traffic Appeals

The Senate Position Paper

by Cyndy Hodge
cyndy.hodge@wichita.edu

You've probably heard someone talk about the Position Paper, but what is it really and what do we do with it?

Each year, in an effort to educate and advise legislators of the needs of classified employees statewide, the Regents institutions senates and assemblies meet to develop a paper, beginning with the classified employees of their own university. The senates or assemblies usually decide what they consider to be the pertinent issues or needs facing us as classified employees.

After each university has compiled its own position paper, representatives of each university meet at one of the schools to assemble a unified paper. The meetings are held early in the fall so that there is plenty of time to get the paper ready and approved by the individual senates and assemblies before Legislative Day, which is in early February.

If you thought that getting about 20 people from different areas of the state to sit down and agree on a half dozen or so ideas is a difficult thing to pull off, you would be correct! Ask 20 classified employees what they want most, and you will likely get a dozen different answers, after money of course!

Consider that the needs of one area are not always the needs of another. Money is always an issue in the larger metropolitan areas where the cost of living is much higher. So money usually tops our lists. But the folks in the Pittsburgh area or Fort Hays have much lower costs of living and money isn't usually as strong of an issue for them. Benefits are usually close to the top of the list for all of us.

At that point, the senates and assemblies narrow that list down and compile the unified paper that is presented to legislature each year. Efforts are made to get the paper into the hands of all legislators, whether it be by e-mail, postal mail or

hand delivery. It doesn't matter how they get the paper, only that they get it.

This is one of the reasons that you are encouraged to build a rapport with your local legislators. It is harder for them to ignore you when they know your face and name, although some of them do it quite easily. Call them; e-mail them from a home e-mail account, not your university account. Let them know that you are paying attention to how they are voting and what they are doing. Send them a copy of the Position Paper; ask them about the issues that affect you and your family and your work.

Some of them will listen well and pay attention. Others, well we'll just have to keep working on!

To read this year's position paper, visit the Classified Senate website at: webs.wichita.edu/classified

Committee Updates

by Tom Veltman
tom.veltman@wichita.edu

Senate committees are staying busy planning events for the campus, working with other Regents university's senates and organizing community service projects.

The Community Service Committee is organizing operation "Adopt a Soldier for the Holidays" to send care packages to soldiers from Fort Riley who are serving in Iraq. Visit the Classified Senate website for details or contact Janice Holtsclaw at ext. 7923.

The Holiday Tree Lighting Committee will host the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on December 1st beginning at 2:00 with refreshments at the Fireside Lounge in the Rhatigan Student Center. At 2:30 we will

move outside to light-up the holiday tree north of the RSC. This year's festivities will include a holiday gift drawing. For information contact Val Peck at ext. 3326.

On December 7th from 3:00 to 4:00, the **Meet Your Classified Senator Committee** will host a reception at the Fireside Lounge in the RSC. Come meet your senator and talk to him/her about what's important to you. For information contact Susan Fordyce at ext. 7962.

The Position Paper / Legislative Issues Committee has the position paper ready and is planning the annual "Legislative Information Day" in Topeka for early February. Stay tuned for more details.

Free Internet access for WSU employees at the following locations:

E.K. & Kathlien Edmiston 24-Hour Study Room (printer available) at the NW entrance of the WSU Library.

Computer Labs (printer available)

Jabara Hall #120
M-Th: 7 am – 10 pm;
Fri: 7 am – 6 pm;
Sat: 10 am – 6 pm;
Sun: 1-6 pm

Jabara Hall #122
Sat & Sun: 1-6 pm
M-F: all day, continually from Monday at 7 am to Friday at 6 pm.