



The University of Kansas Classified Senate Newsletter

January 2003

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS INFORMATION

After numerous delays and extra meetings, I am happy to report that a final version for the Kansas Council of Classified Senates' Position Paper FY'04 is done. A copy of that document can be found on page 2. If you happen to have seen the earlier draft on our website, you will notice that there are some changes. However, the basic issues and priorities remain the same.

This year the Legislative Information Day will occur on Tuesday, February 4th. Although the budget situation remains grim and we know it will be a difficult persuasion effort, there are reasons to have hope.

First and foremost, it appears for the first time in many years of doing this we will have some help and support from the various University Administrations. In our case, the office of EVC for University Relations, Janet Murguia. The corresponding officers at the other Regents' schools seem willing as well. Historically, state employees at agencies where top administration has been vocal in support of their needs, have fared better in their wage treatment by the Legislature.

Another positive is that we may have more inroads than ever before into the Administration. S.E.A.C., the State Employee Advisory Committee, now exists to provide a regular open channel. We have been able to get information about our needs and concerns into the hands of one of Governor elect Sebelius' policy advisers, who happens to be a Lawrence resident. Two other Lawrence people, Troy Findley and Rod Bremby, have been appointed to important roles in the new administration.

Additionally, although our issues remain basically unchanged from those in the past, we have some new approaches to presenting them that we hope will prove more persuasive.

Finally, we hope that the hard times that have descended upon us will prompt more of you than ever before to make your voices heard in record numbers. Write letters to your Senator and Representative, asking for their support of the issues on our position paper, particularly those related to salary needs. (If you are one of those whose net paycheck has gone down, it is very important for you to make your dissatisfaction known.) Ask your friends and family, especially those

who live in areas of the state where there are not major concentrations of state agencies, to do the same. *[Editor's note: Names and addresses can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.]*

As always, you can get your letters into the hands of any Classified Senator by January 31st, and we will see that they get delivered.

Dennis Constance

CIVIL SERVICE ALTERNATIVE

On October 21, the Communications and Personnel Committees of Classified Senate met with Provost David Shulenberg, Vice Provost Lindy Eakin, and Director of Human Resources Ola Faucher to discuss classified employment.

The Provost is interested in re-pursuing the issue of KU's classified employees leaving the State's Civil Service system and becoming University of Kansas or Regent employees in a similar way to that of faculty and/or unclassified staff. Also, at the two Town Hall meetings organized by the Provost to discuss Tuition Enhancement funds, many of the classified employees present expressed support for this change.

Such a change would give KU more autonomy over its employees. One thing in which the Provost is particularly interested is the ability to offer merit pay increases to classified staff in a fashion comparable to how KU currently determines these for faculty and unclassified staff.

A task force has been formed to discuss what such a change might entail. The members of that task force are Mike Auchard, Lindy Eakin, Ola Faucher, Linda Fund, Kathy Jansen, Eleanor Kent, Bette Luther, and Beverly Koerner. The group has begun regular discussions about this issue. Classified Senate and University Administration will distribute more information as the process evolves.

Eleanor Kent

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION DAY

Anyone interested in attending Legislative Information Day on **Tuesday, February 4**, meet at 7:00 a.m. at the deli in the Hy-Vee on 6th Street. Please contact Dennis Constance ASAP, so that he can make appointments for you to meet with legislators. He can be reached at 864-4261, or by email at dcon@ku.edu.

**KANSAS COUNCIL OF CLASSIFIED SENATES
FY04 POSITION PAPER**

Representing over 6,000 classified employees in the Regents System

Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University,
Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University,
University of Kansas, Wichita State University

Salary

- adjust pay matrix annually so lowest pay rate is above most current Federal Poverty Salary Guidelines for a family of four
- fund pay matrix step increases
- fully fund longevity pay at the current rate and remove \$1,000.00 cap
- establish standing guidelines to keep Classified Employees salaries equitable with private sector

Benefits

- fund any increase in health insurance premiums by an offset of appropriated dollars to Regents Universities
- increase Sick Leave earned per pay period from 3.7 to 4.2 hours
- increase Annual Leave earned per pay period by .5 hours and remove cap
- subsidize health insurance premiums for retirees with 85 points, specifically those that choose to retire before they are eligible for federal assistance

Retirement

- reduce KPERS vesting period to five years
- close the unfunded retirement liability gap in KPERS

We support the initiatives of the State Employee Advisory Committee (SEAC) on behalf of all state Classified Employees.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

**SUMMER SEMESTER DEADLINE IS
5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH**

The Tuition Assistance program is available to staff with six months of KU employment. The program normally covers tuition for one class per semester. Classes should be structured courses that meet on a scheduled basis with days and times published in the Timetable of Classes. The tuition assistance application form is available on the Human Resources website under forms download. For more information, contact Lynn George, at 864-7415. Applications should be

forwarded to the Tuition Assistance Committee, c/o Human Resources, 103 Carruth-O'Leary Hall.

Please note: when you are filing out your form, fill in the amount of tuition to the best of your ability. Once tuition rates are set, the amount will be adjusted accordingly on your application.

Important Tax Update: In the past, pursuant to IRS requirements, tuition assistance was considered a taxable benefit for individuals with at least a baccalaureate degree and was reflected accordingly on the employee's annual W-2 form. Beginning with the Spring 2002 semester, awarded tuition assistance for both undergraduate and graduate courses will be excluded from gross income. This exclusion for employer-provided tuition benefits has been expanded and extended through December 31, 2010 by the Economic Growth and Tax Reconciliation Act of 2001.



**Congratulations to the
following for being named KU
Classified Employees of the
Month:**

**October—Mary Archer,
Administrative Specialist,
International Student and Scholar Services**

**November—Thomas Kearn, Custodial
Supervisor, Facilities Operation**

December—

We have two openings in Classified Senate. The Senate meets the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 to 12:00. Please contact Kathy Reed 864-5169 kreed@ku.edu if you're interested in serving on the senate.

This newsletter created for Classified Senate by Margretta de Vries. Layout and Design by Margretta de Vries with assistance from Bette Luther, Nancy Brune, Ruth Hatfield, Andy Pritchard, Jerry Hanson and Kathy Stiers.

The Classified Senate Communications Committee meets once per month. If you have suggestions for articles, please call Bette Luther (864-4229) or email us at clsenate@ku.edu. ©2000–2002 KU Classified Senate and Fran Hewitt.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS!

Please write messages stating your concerns to your elected officials. Do not write form letters, since those usually are not read.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius (D)
State Capitol, Topeka 66612
P: (913) 296-3232

Insurance Commissioner
Sandy Praeger (R)
420 S.W. Ninth, Topeka 66612
P: (785) 296-3071

The following senators and representatives are those elected from Douglas and surrounding counties. Those representing citizens of more than one county are only listed once. If you do not find your representatives in this list, please refer to this website: www.kslegislature.org.

Douglas County

Sen. Mark Buhler — Dist. 2
Room Number: 136-N
P: (785) 296-7364
buhler@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Bob Lyon — Dist. 3
(Leavenworth, Jefferson)
Room Number: 143-N
P: (785) 296-7372
lyon@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Anthony Hensley — Dist. 19
(Shawnee, Osage)
Room Number: 347-N
P: (785) 296-3245
hensley@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Ralph Tanner — Dist. 10
(Franklin)
Room Number: 426-S
P: (785) 296-7654
tanner@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Rob Boyer — Dist. 38
(Johnson)
Room Number: 156-E
P: (785) 296-7692
boyer@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Barbara Ballard — Dist. 44
Room Number: 272-W
P: (785) 296-7650
ballard@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Tom Sloan — Dist. 45
Room Number: 446-N
P: (785) 296-7677
sloan@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Paul Davis — Dist. 46
Room Number: 302-S
P: (785) 296-7686
davis@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Roger Toelkes — Dist. 53
Room Number: 281-W
P: (785) 296-7687
toelkes@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Joe Humerickhouse — Dist. 59
(Franklin, Osage)
Room Number: 175-W
P: (785) 296-7698
humerickhouse@house.state.ks.us

Franklin County

Sen. Robert Tyson — Dist. 12
(Miami)
Room Number: 128-S
P: (785) 296-7380
tyson@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Derek Schmidt — Dist. 15
Room Number: 143-N
P: (785) 296-7398
schmidt@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Bill Feuerborn — Dist. 5
Room Number: 273-W
P: (785) 296-7697
feureborn@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Stanley Dreher — Dist. 9
Room Number: 110-S
P: (785) 296-7632
dreher@house.state.ks.us

Leavenworth County

Sen. Mark Gilstrap — Dist. 5
(Wyandotte)
Room Number: 138-N
P: (785) 296-7357
gilstrap@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Ray Cox — Dist. 39
Room Number: 431-N
P: (785) 296-7689
cox@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Candy Ruff — Dist. 40
Room Number: 278-W
P: (785) 296-7647
ruff@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Marti Crow — Dist. 41
Room Number: 284-W
P: (785) 296-7673
crow@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Kenny Wilk — Dist. 42
Room Number: 514-S
P: (785) 296-7660
wilk@house.state.ks.us

Miami County

Sen. Robert Tyson — Dist. 12
Room Number: 128-S
P: (785) 296-7380
tyson@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Karin Brownlee — Dist. 23
Room Number: 136-N
P: (785) 296-7358
brownlee@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Jene Vickrey — Dist. 6
Room Number: 181-W
P: (785) 296-6014
vickrey@house.state.ks.us

Osage County

Sen. Jim Barnett — Dist. 17
Room Number: 136-N
P: (785) 296-7384
barnett@senate.state.ks.us

Shawnee County

Sen. David Jackson — Dist. 18
Room Number: 458-E
P: (785) 296-7365
jackson@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Bill Bunten — Dist. 20
Room Number: 460-E
P: (785) 296-7374
bunten@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Becky Hutchins — Dist. 50
Room Number: 175-W
P: (785) 296-7698
hutchins@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Cindy Hermes — Dist. 51
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hermes@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Lana Gordon — Dist. 52
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gordon@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Doug Mays — Dist. 54
Room Number: 170-W
P: (785) 296-7668
mays@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Annie Kuether — Dist. 55
Room Number: 279-W
P: (785) 296-7669
kuether@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Nancy Kirk — Dist. 56
Room Number: 284-W
P: (785) 296-7673
kirk@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Vaughn Flora — Dist. 57
Room Number: 278-W
P: (785) 296-7647
flora@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Rocky Nichols — Dist. 58
Room Number: 284-W
P: (785) 296-7651
nichols@house.state.ks.us

Jefferson County

Rep. Lee Tafaneli — Dist. 47
Room Number: 175-W
P: (785) 296-7698
tafaneli@house.state.ks.us

Wyandotte County

Sen. David Haley — Dist. 4
Room Number: 140-N
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haley@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Chris Steineger — Dist. 6
Room Number: 523-S
P: (785) 296-7375
steineger@senate.state.ks.us

Sen. Nick Jordan — Dist. 10
Room Number: 143-N
P: (785) 296-7362
jordan@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Bonnie Sharp — Dist. 31
Room Number: 273-W
P: (785) 296-7656
sharp@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Rick Rehorn — Dist. 32
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Rep. Tom Burroughs — Dist. 33
Room Number: 284-W
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burroughs@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Valdenia Winn — Dist. 34
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P: (785) 296-7688
winn@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Douglas Spangler — Dist. 35
Room Number: 284-W
P: (785) 296-7651
spangler@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Broderick Henderson —
Dist. 35
Room Number: 273-W
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henderson@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Margaret Long — Dist. 36
Room Number: 270-W
P: (785) 296-7657
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Rep. Bill Reardon — Dist. 37
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*Two Open Senate Seats***WEB SITE UPDATE**www.ku.edu/~clsenate/

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clsenate@ku.edu**HELPFUL WEB LINKS****KU Home Page**www.ku.edu/**KU Staff Benefits**

www.ku.edu/~kuhr/faculty_staff/benefits/

Meeting Schedules

For KU Classified Senate

www.ku.edu/~clsenate/

On the menu, select 'Meeting Schedules'. Full Senate meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Visit the **Academic Computer Center** www.ku.edu/acs/ and check out the new Fall 2002 classes and online registration.

KU News, Arts, & Events are available at www.ku.edu/news/.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CLASSIFIED SENATE

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