



The University of Kansas Classified Senate Newsletter

May 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLASSIFIED SENATE

This is my favorite time of the year on campus. Everything is so fresh and beautiful. Thanks to the KU Landscape crews that keep the grounds so lush and colorful.

All KU Governance organizations are wrapping up their business and preparing for the next school year. You will find Senate officers and committee members for the coming year listed in this newsletter.

I have agreed to serve out the second year of my two-year term. I really want to see the implementation of the new employment system.

The work group will hopefully be taking the final proposal to the Kansas Board of Regents in June. As soon as we get their approval, KU will begin to implement the system. Improvements and changes will happen in segments. Details are being finalized at this time. All employees will receive the COLA from the State in early June.

A second portion of the cost of living increase will be awarded by KU at some time after Board of Regents Approval. The amount of this increase has not been determined. After a time set aside to insure all employees have current evaluations, the merit portion of the new system will be awarded.

Please remember that ALL benefits, including holidays, health insurance, KEPRS, vacation and sick leave and longevity pay will remain in place. No jobs will be lost as a result of this change in employment systems. Job reorganization and changes will probably continue to occur as the needs of the University change. These changes have been happening under Civil Service. A recent example is the closing the KU Printing Services. HREO worked very hard, as they have in the past, to relocate as many displaced employees as possible.

It is true that some portion of your increase will be based on merit so the total sum of salary increases will not be exactly the same for all employees.

All in all this is a very exciting time for KU employees. There are unlimited possibilities for improvements in our work system. The work group

will continue on behalf of and with the approval of Senate to continue to work with representatives from HREO and Administration to craft this new system. As always, we welcome your input.

Kathy Jansen

GOVERNOR SEBELIUS SIGNS SENATE BILL 74

On Thursday, April 21, Governor Kathleen Sebelius came to campus for a special bill-signing ceremony for Senate Bill 74. As a former member of Classified Senate (2000-2003), it was my great honor to attend this ceremony, together with the current members of Classified Senate, other classified staff members, students, faculty, university administration officials and Lawrence's representatives to the Kansas Legislature!

In front of a standing-room only audience in Alderson Auditorium at the Kansas Union, Governor Sebelius enacted into law SB 74, which allows the classified employees (us!) to become "University Employees". I am looking forward to seeing how this new law will be put into practice here at KU.

Margretta de Vries



Chancellor Hemenway looks on as Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signs SB 74.

Kansas State Fair Volunteers Needed (Sept. 9-18)

The university needs volunteers to staff the KU booth in four or five-hour shifts, which is fun and exciting. For more information contact Margey Frederick at mfrederick@ku.edu. A volunteer orientation session will be held in late August.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

FALL SEMESTER DEADLINE IS 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) 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: 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: Since the Spring 2002 semester, awarded tuition assistance for both undergraduate and graduate courses has been 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.

ADDITIONAL TUITION ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

The Personnel Committee of the Classified Senate met with Lindy Eakin, Provost's Office, and Lynn George, Human Resources/Equal Opportunity (HR/EO), to discuss the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) on March 3rd. Our purpose in meeting was to learn the reasoning behind the exclusion of some kinds of classes ("by appointment" and independent study courses, thesis and dissertation hours and accelerated degree programs) from the support of the TAP. As the meeting progressed, it became clear that some exceptions to the guidelines are possible. For example, the TAP Committee will support a "by appointment" course if the professor is gathering the schedules of the students to designate a course time convenient for all. We encourage you to contact Lynn George (864-7415, lgeorge@ku.edu) to discuss the possibilities of your individual situation and to see if accommodations can be made.

We learned that the TAP will support a course taken with the Credit/No credit option. Also, with the permission of the professor, you may be allowed to informally audit a course. Best of all, as a Kansas resident, once you're sixty, you may request a waiver

of tuition and required campus fees to audit a course if space in the class is available.

Information about TAP:

http://www.ku.edu/%7Ekuhr/faculty_staff/tuition/index.shtml

KU goal of supporting staff life-long learning and scheduling, etc.:

http://www.ku.edu/~kuhr/faculty_staff/handbooks/app1.shtml

Senior citizen rates:

<http://www.registrar.ku.edu/pdf/senior.pdf> ; page 34 of

http://kansasregents.org/download/aca_affairs/policy_manual/policymanual.pdf

If you have any questions or comments, please contact any of the members of the Personnel Committee of the Classified Senate (Bev Koerner, chairperson, Janice Andes, Mary Ann Baker, Angel Gillaspie, Carol Gonce, Judy Greenberg, Kathy Jansen, Beverly Nightingale, Kathy Stiers, and Maxine Younes).

PARKING PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Despite unavoidable delays, the Parking Department will be sending out the email with a link to sign up online for payroll deduction very soon! Please watch for the email from

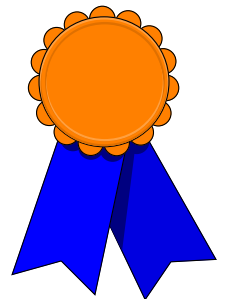
EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Linda Ward**, Custodial Specialist at the Computer Center, for being chosen as the **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**.

Beverly Koerner, an Administrative Specialist in Geography, in March 2005.

Jim Weaver, an Electronics Technologist in Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, in April 2005.

Congratulations to all of you for the recognition of your hard work and for your representation of Classified Employees at KU!



This newsletter created and designed by Margretta de Vries, Pauline Sanders, Teri Chambers, Nancy Brune, Allen Eastland, and Sharon Lee Green. The Classified Senate Communications Committee will meet July 21 and Oct 20 at 3:30 in 213J Summerfield. If you have suggestions for articles, please call Teri Chambers (864-2481) or email us at clsentat@ku.edu.
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CLASSIFIED SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Classified Senate will meet on the following dates from 10:30 a.m. – Noon, at the Kansas Union, unless otherwise noted. All meetings are open to the public.

June 8, 2005 Relays Room
(Burge Union)
July 13, 2005 Centennial
Aug. 10, 2005 Parlor
Sept. 14, 2005 Pine
Oct. 12, 2005 Parlor
Nov. 9, 2005 Parlor
Dec. 14, 2005 Parlor
Jan. 11, 2006 Parlor
Feb. 8, 2006 Relays Room
(Burge Union)
March 8, 2006 Parlor
April 12, 2006 Parlor
May 10, 2006 Parlor
June 14, 2006 Parlor

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Classified Senate Executive Board will meet on the following dates from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Kansas Union.

June 1, 2005 Regionalist Room
July 6, 2005 Alcove F
Aug. 3, 2005
International Room
Sept. 7, 2005 Governor's Room
Oct. 5, 2005
International Room
Nov. 2, 2005
International Room
Dec. 7, 2005
International Room
Jan. 4, 2006
International Room
Feb 1, 2006 - International
March 1, 2006
International Room
April 5, 2006
International Room
May 3, 2006
International Room
June 7, 2006
International Room

OFFICERS

The Classified Senate elected the following officers and formed committees for 2005-06.

President

Kathy Jansen

Vice President

Bev Nightingale

Secretary

Linda Orr

Treasurer

Angel Gillaspie

Ex-Officio

Mike Auchard

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Communications Committee

Pauline Sanders, Co-Chair
864-4770

psanders@sunflower.com

Teri Chambers, Co-Chair
864-2841 tchambers@ku.edu

Nancy Brune
Margretta de Vries
Allen Eastland
Sharon Lee Green
Ruthie Hatfield

Legislative Affairs Committee

Dennis Constance, Chair
864-4261 dcon@ku.edu

Mike Auchard
Jay Barnard
Nancy Brune
Tom Bryce
Bette Luther
Linda Orr
Tim Thomasson
Maxine Younes

Personnel Affairs Committee

Bev Koerner, Chair
864-5144 koerner@ku.edu
Janice Andes
Mary Ann Baker

Russell Benke
Jenna Coker
Angel Gillaspie
Bev Nightingale
Kathy Stiers
Maxine Younes

Elections Committee

Doug Carter, Chair
864-3097 dscarter@ku.edu
Sharon Lee Green
Judy Greenberg
Wayne Hathaway
Kathy Reed
Kristin Tate

IAPR

Kathy Stiers, Co-Chair
864-4089 kistiers@ku.edu
Kristin Tate, Co-Chair
864-3655 tatekris@ku.edu
Delores Leonard
Maxine Younes

UNITED WAY REPRESENTATIVE

Judy Greenberg

UPSA

Maxine Younes

SenEx

Bev Nightingale

Please note that any classified employee is encouraged to join and participate in any of the Classified Committees. If you're interested in becoming a member please contact the committee chair.

SENATORS**Bette Luther - EEO 3 Rep**

Judy Greenberg
Vacant

Mary Ann Baker - EEO 4 Rep

Janice Andes
Sharon Lee Green
Nancy Brune
Angel Gillaspie
Bev Koerner
Linda Orr
Carol Gonce
Kathy Stiers
Kristin Tate
Maxine Younes
Delores Leonard
Teri Chambers

Jay Barnard- EEO 5 Rep

Kathy Reed**

Tim Thomasson - EEO 6 Rep

Wayne Hathaway
Thomas Bryce
Doug Carter
Allen Eastland
Ken Squires

Pauline Sanders - EEO 7 Rep

Dennis Constance
Pauline Sanders
Marvin Weideman
Mike Lindeman

****Representative At Large**

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Kathy Jansen
Bev Nightingale
Mary Ann Baker

WEB SITE UPDATE

www.ku.edu/~clsenate/

Please visit our website and feel free to e-mail the Webmaster (clsenate@ku.edu). Your input is appreciated.

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 Spring 2005 classes and online registration.

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

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE KU CLASSIFIED SENATE WILL BE ON JUNE 8TH AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE RELAYS ROOM OF THE BURGE UNION.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CLASSIFIED SENATE

33 Strong Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045