

Classified Connection Meeting August 8, 2007

Jessica Cole welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves and department. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

Tara Boyette presented the employee self service area available in WINS where employees should make changes to their personal information including phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts. These changes will be reflected in the directory. The deadline for campus directory updates will be two weeks sooner than it has been in the past, Human Resources will send out an e-mail notification when the employee self service is functional and ready for updates.

Diana Miller, our representative from WSEU gave an overview and history of the union which represents classified employees on this campus. She explained that the structure is that of an inverted triangle with the members at the top, the Local and its Executive Board (our local is 1131), the Council (ours is 24) is the next level down, followed by the International Executive Board and finally the International Union.

There are bargaining teams for each of the represented classifications, which are:

ASU – Administrative Support Unit (us)
BC – Blue Collar
T – Technical
SPS – Safety and Protective Services
PSS – Professional Support Services

As of **September 1, 2000** with the passage of the **MOM (Maintenance of Membership)** drive, all new hires are automatically paying Union dues and it is requested that they sign a green card to become active in the Union. (This information is shared with all new employees when they meet in a union orientation meeting with Jean Bromley, President of Local 1131). Employees hired before that date are exempt from the MOM clause, are still afforded the right to a union steward, but do not receive voting rights, dental or eye care benefits, or access to other union member only benefits. Two ways the union represents all classified employees is negotiating contracts and arbitrating grievances.

Those who pay union dues may become active union members by filling out a green card (see Jean Bromley). Joining the union entitles them the opportunity to attend union meetings, the right to vote and have access to union information. Those who do not pay dues are considered represented but non-union members and not allowed voting rights or union benefits. Some items the union has negotiated for includes, but is not limited to: sick leave, raises and insurance benefits.

If you are a union member, but do not receive the minutes or are receiving the minutes in error, please contact Jean Bromley for green card verification.

The **state assembly is currently proposing several budget cuts**. The UW-Whitewater cuts are proposed to be around \$5,000,000.00. Most of these cuts will be in the form of non represented and classified staff position cuts. Proposed items to the union contract negotiations are:

- State Employee raises for the next two years will be only 1% in July 2008.
- State Employees share of the health insurance premium will increase to 10% of the total premium and that health insurance will no longer be a subject of collective bargaining.
- State Employees with "Non-protective" status will earn only six (6) sick days a year and sick days will no longer be a subject of collective bargaining.
- State Employees will be paid **ONLY** once per month and that "pay periods" will no longer be a subject of collective bargaining.
- Eighty-one State Employee vacant positions across agency lines will be eliminated.

Prior to these proposed cuts, the anticipated raises were to be 2.5% for 2007 and 2.5% for 2008. If we make our voices heard....maybe we can reverse their decisions. The rising costs of gas, food, utilities and other items should be mentioned in our letters to our representatives to remind them of our need for cost of living raises.

Originally there was 94 million dollars in the union coffers for our pay increases and to help cover insurance costs. But now the Assembly wants to use that 94 million to balance the budget in hopes of not raising taxes. Remember, these same people did not approve the Doyle's wishes to raise cigarette taxes, gas taxes or to impose taxes on the RICH - therein lies a problem.

The proposal does not include protected services employees to be included in the proposed cuts as the university employees are. Protective services employees include: Correction Officers, State Patrol Officers, Capital Police and law enforcement in the state. The rest of us would have to make up the difference. Protective services personnel make more per hour than most of the other classified employees, but they would be exempted from the increases or pay outs.

Jean Bromley strongly encouraged everyone to contact his or her state representative:

UNION INFO.: <http://www.wseu-24.org/>.

FIND OUT WHO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IS: <http://www.capwiz.com/wseu-sepac/state/main/?state=WI&view=myofficials#0>.

GENERIC MESSAGE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL: <http://www.capwiz.com/wseu-sepac/issues/alert/?alertid=10032266>.

ASU TEAM: asuteam@wseu-24.org.

SEPAC: <http://www.capwiz.com/wseu-sepac>, go to the left hand column and click on Action E-lert. This allows you to receive information about issues that pertain to us.

If you have questions or concerns for Jean, you can reach her at her union line on campus 262-472-6700 or her direct line 262-472-6704.

Announcements

- Grade rosters will open next Monday.
- "+ and -" grading begins this fall with remedial, 100 and 200 level courses. 300 and 400 level course "+ and -" grades will not go into effect until Fall of 2008. There will be no "A+", an "A" is the highest grade.
- New faculty cannot receive ID cards yet. They Hawkcard office will send out an e-mail when the information is in the system and cards can be generated.
- New Student Programs and the Office of Student Life are now located in the UC in the old Hawkcard Office.
- The Hawkcard Office is now located in UC 250, phone# 1437, fax#1473.
- Send your student job information to the Jobline. Positions will be posted and available for students to view as of Monday.
- The Job Fair will be held on 9/5/07. Contact the Financial Aid office if you would like to participate.
- Transfers: Susie Olson to History, Linda Becher to Geography and Geology.
- Chris Henige is serving as Interim Assistant Chair of the Art Department
- Robert Mertens is now the Interim Associate Dean of the College of Art and Communication and Chair of Art Dept. a new Associate Dean.
- Richard Haven is serving as Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Communication

The next Classified Connection meeting will be held Wednesday, September 12, 2007 in Carlson 1006. Speakers Mary Blaesius, Human Resources – Benefits Fair, Open Enrollment, Ron Buchholz,

Career Services and Leadership Development – merger of the two entities, Lisa Rowland, iCIT – New IT info., and Joe Friedel, iCIT – Office 2007.