

Classified Info

Published by the Classified Staff Council-West for the ASU West Community

FEBRUARY 1998

Letter from the President

In 1976 I stood in a line with about 200 other students waiting to register for classes at the college in my hometown. I suppose I should mention that I was in the back of this line and the temperature was climbing over the 100° mark. This was in the days when registration meant going to three different buildings on campus, none of which were close in proximity, and knowing that you may be in line for 2 hours at each stop only to find that all the cards for the classes you wanted had already been pulled. As I stood outside of the first building, melting in the hot sun I was approached by a young man who asked if I'd be interested in being a senator with the student government. I asked several questions before I popped the big one, "what are the benefits of being a senator?" This young man smiled and said, "If you are a senator I can take you right inside this building and pull all your class cards. You will be registered and not have to wait in this line any longer." That was all the coaxing I needed. From that point on, I was an active member in student government, addressing student issues with university administration.

Almost 20 years had passed when I came to work at ASU West. I quickly heard about the Classified Staff Council (CSC) and contemplated running for a position. This time my concern was not about "what's in it for me", personally, but more about staff morale, salary issues, professional development, and the staff's role in the larger university community. Once again there were lots of issues but this time I was an employee, not a student. I felt that things were different now - there was more at stake and I certainly had much more to lose. Finally I decided that the only way to make changes at the institution was to be an active participant on the Council. As much as I tried to become involved in classified staff issues, time was a factor, but when I was elected as an area representative, I discovered that not only was I becoming more involved, I seemed to be able to make time for that commitment. Although I was becoming

more embroiled in the issues, I never dreamed of running for an executive office. In the Spring of 1996, election time drew near and I was approached by several council members who asked me to run for the office of President. After lots of conversation I agreed to take a chance.

Being President of the Classified Staff Council for the past two years has undoubtedly been one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences that I have had in my career. Doors have opened up that otherwise may not have. As council president I have had the opportunity to interact with faculty, staff and administration in a variety of forums. I have been the staff representative at public events, on university committees, in meetings with administration, legislators and community supporters. All of these experiences have added to my professional development in ways that I cannot even explain. I do know that I have much more confidence and insight into the workings of the university. The Council has built a strong working relationship with administration. We would not have been able to accomplish all of our goals without the support, assistance and encouragement from President Coor, Provost Maimon, Gebe Ejigu, and Steffany Knirsch.

In April the Council will hold its annual elections for new officers and area representatives. I encourage all members of the classified staff to consider participating with the Council. The only way to make a difference is to contribute your ideas and enthusiasm. Change lies with you.

As I step down as president in May, I will carry with me all the fond memories of the Council's accomplishments, of the people I have met, and the events that I have been so fortunate to participate in. This has truly been a rich experience!

Donna Young, President, CSC-W

What do we stand for?

The Classified Staff Council - West wishes to go on record as being fully supportive of ASU West's Commitment to Diversity as stated in Provost Maimon's message to the campus community on February 9, 1998.

We find acts of harassment and discrimination personally intolerable, on campus or off. Such acts undermine the positive working environment and atmosphere of mutual respect and inclusivity we have worked so hard to foster at ASU West.

Every day, in the amazing variety and scope of duties and tasks we perform, we bear testimony to the undeniable truth that in diversity lies strength.

Diversity is nature's law, it must also be ours.

