

Classified Staff expects peaceful merit-pay rally

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If the media expects rowdy, frenzied rallies at the Legislature's open budget hearings this week, ASU's Classified Staff Council will not be able to accommodate them.

"Our rally Wednesday will be more like a vigil," said ASU Main CSC president Robert Curry.

Larry Carlson, ASU West CSC vice president, agreed.

"I don't think we'll have any problems," he said.

The rally, a joint effort by the Classified Staff Councils of ASU's Main and West campuses, has no scheduled speakers. Curry said it will be less of a demonstration and more of an opportunity to show legislators that classified staff members are serious about ASU's 5-percent merit-pay increase request.

Classified staff members, such as janitorial, custodial and registration workers, have named the 1994-95 school year the "Year of Equity" to raise awareness of the necessity for salaries equal to that of state employee counterparts, Curry said.

"We're encouraging people to come down at 3 p.m. and attend the sessions, and then assemble outside at 5:30 p.m.," said

Curry, who is scheduled to speak to the Legislature on behalf of the councils.

The Legislature is currently entertaining recommendations from the governor, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the state's universities. While Gov. Fife Symington has recommended a 4-percent increase, the JLBC has recommended no increase. A final decision from the Legislature is expected in March.

The CSC's rally is not restricted to classified staff members, however. Carlson said anyone interested in the budget issues can attend.

"We aren't just there for staff salaries, but for equity for everyone — students, staff, anyone at the University," Carlson said. "We realize how important it is to get in touch with the legislators and let them know we are here."

Carlson said he is not sure how many members of the ASU community will attend the rally.

"I hope there'll be 100 or more, but there may only be 20," he said.

ASU President Lattie Coor said the rally is a good idea because CSC has always been clear in communicating its views on salary issues.

"The Legislature would take notice that they are expressing themselves," Coor said.