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Legal Order Received

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From: Office of Public Relations
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE OF PITTSBURG
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Date: November 5, 1974

11-5-74 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The legal order has been received by the administration at Kansas State College of Pittsburg to meet and confer with the Kansas Higher Education Association (KHEA). The order came from the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) in Topeka, and has been expected as the next step toward meet and confer sessions. KHEA, which will represent the KSCP faculty in these sessions, won the faculty election on October 23, in which faculty made a choice of representation by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), KHEA, or of no representation. PERB has certified KHEA as the exclusive representative of the faculty for the purpose of meeting and conferring in the settlement of grievances.

President George F. Budd, upon receipt of the legal order, said: "I will be in contact immediately with the secretary of the Department of Administration of the State of Kansas as is required by the Kansas statutes and the Board of Regents to determine the team of persons who will represent KSCP during the meet and confer process. Working out these arrangements will require several days. Upon the completion of the arrangements, we will be ready to meet with the faculty representative regarding the ground rules for the meet and confer sessions."

President Budd recapped the chronology of events which led to the legal order and explained provisions of the 1972 Kansas law. The legislation, called the Public Employer-Employee Relations Act, established a framework of employer-employee relations and provides for uniform and orderly methods for meeting and conferring between public employers and certain public employees and employee organizations. It enables public employees to form, join and participate in the activities of employee organizations.

"It should be emphasized," President Budd said, "that we have a 'meet and confer' law in Kansas and not a 'collective bargaining' law."

(more)

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In February of this year, local executive boards of AAUP, KHEA and the KSCP Faculty Association sent a request to PERB and asked that an appropriate unit for the KSCP faculty be designated. PERB designated that the unit should consist of the general departmental teaching faculty and learning resources faculty, but excluded departmental chairpersons and administrators, Budd said. Following this move, AAUP and KHEA requested that an election be held.

In a statement released prior to that election, President Budd stated the position of the administration as one of "maintaining a stance of strict neutrality throughout the election campaign." This neutrality was maintained, Budd said, and when election results were finalized, he welcomed the decision of the majority of the faculty.

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