

## All just a political stunt?

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A cash-flow problem that could jeopardize the paychecks of 41,000 state employees Friday was seen as more of a political stunt than a real possibility by some Kansas State University employees Tuesday.

And since K-State administrators have yet to receive official word from Topeka about the possibility, the hope on campus is the situation will be resolved before Friday's payday.

"We have not received any notification or information from Topeka regarding the cash-flow problem," said K-State budget director Cindy Bontrager. "We are hopeful the state will get this resolved. When cash flow has been a problem previously, they have borrowed it against other funds."

According to state Rep. **Sydney Carlin**, there are approximately 11,000 state employees working at K-State alone. Of those 11,000, some 91 percent are direct deposit, she said. More than one-third of the county's workforce are government workers, and most of those are state employees.

"I think it's political games... a who-blinks-first kind of game," **Carlin** said. "This concerns a lot of people in Manhattan and we are working hard to fix it so they get paid."

Stewart Stanton, a K-State professor of electrical engineering, said he is not worried about receiving his paycheck Friday.

"I think they'll come to an understanding," he said. "It sounds like political grandstanding. Someone is using the immediate shortfall to put pressure to win their way."

Olivia Collins, a professor of leadership studies, agreed the legislators were playing political gamesmanship.

"We are trying to teach our students the value of communication and civic discourse," she said. "I'd like to see our state legislators practice that."

Collins said she hoped the situation would be resolved by Friday, but even a delay in processing would be stressful to some employees.

"They have to realize in these time some people have to have their paychecks," she said. "We are humans beings and the Legislature represent us."

Stanton said even if paychecks were delayed, the tactics were "minor compared to what some people do in the name of politics."

"I presume they'll get it to us eventually; it's a foolishness we'll have to put up with," he said. "What are we going to do, quit, sue them? About all we can do is hold signs up in the air and I don't think the situation justifies that yet."

At least for the immediate future, the squabble will not affect teachers in the Manhattan-Ogden school district. Bruce Stiles, director of business services, said the district has already received its state aid for the month. He added, however, that, "I have no idea what will happen in the future."

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