

Staff Council Minutes

January 7, 1998

PRESENT

Bob Stoller, Carla Rasch, John Shearer, Ginger Webber, Marj Murray, Duke Divine, Gil Herrera, Sheri McDowell, Donna Winslow, Elizabeth Wunder, Deb Anderson, Rugena Hall, Deborah Birney, Donna Catron, Tom Ellis

The minutes from the December 17, 1997, meeting were unanimously approved.

Bob Stoller reported on his meeting with Dr. Farley. Dr. Farley approved the appointment of the current staff council for a limited term in order to get the council started. It was explained by Tom Ellis that Dr. Farley had originally asked the executive staff for names of people who might serve on the council. Thirty names were submitted, The list was then narrowed to eight classified and eight administrative members.

Several comments were shared regarding input gathered from staff employees who are not on the council, primarily concerning representation on future councils.

The Purpose Statement was passed as presented on the agenda:

The purpose of the Staff Council is to provide a forum for all staff to advocate their position on issues which affect them and to provide advice to the President on matters of mutual interest.

The Staff Council may recommend policies and activities to be considered by the President and, at the President's request, review and comment upon policies relating to areas of interest to all staff.

Chairman Bob Stoller went around the table, asking each person for a list of concerns/issues which have been gathered in our contacts with other staff members. Discussion of the items will be held at future meetings, but the list includes the following topics:

- Consistency regarding taking classes during business hours which are paid for via educational assistance
- Cleaning sidewalks, etc.
- Need for a State of the University address
- Educational assistance for intersession courses
- Payment for administrators for "second WU job"
- Shared sick leave policy
- Representation on Personnel Committee
- Negative reactions to mandatory leave if Univ. closes between Christmas and New Years
- Positive reactions to same
- Alumni on the council

- Security concerns during breaks when buildings are not busy
- Discretionary Day
- Staff Development opportunities
- Shared positions
- Need for a training session on various WU procedures
- Not schedule campus events on holidays
- Not invite outside events to campus on holidays
- Daycare
- Improved recreational facilities (Wellness Center)
- Tiered rate structure for health insurance (ie: employee & spouse; employee & one dependent child, etc.)
- Sidewalks in parking lot K
- Petro crossing walk
- Floating holiday
- Create vehicle to allow upgrades of clerical positions
- Create vehicle to compensate those wage & hour employees who must work overtime
- Create secretarial pool to cover any/all offices when secretary is gone
- Creation of Crisis Center

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the possible closing of the university between Christmas and New Years. Various feelings and opinions were put forth. At the next meeting, we will attempt to offer solutions to the problems presented, as well as vote on a recommendation to forward to Dr. Farley.

Discussion regarding representation on the council and election issues centered around the number of members there should be on the council; whether or not specific groups (ie WU Administrative Assistants) should have specific representation; "categories" of representation; and the most efficient method of participation on the council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

It was agreed that the Staff Council will meet at 3:00 on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Bob Stoller will send notification of the meeting place with the agenda.

Shared-leave policies from other organizations were distributed.

REMINDER

Retirement reception honoring Gene Mosiman, January 30, 3-5 pm, Memorial Union Lounge

A comment was shared with the group that this kind of committee has been desperately needed at Washburn for a long time, and that employees who are not on the committee are appreciative of those who were appointed to this first council and who are willing to take the extra time to serve on it.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 21, 3:00 pm Room tba

Many thanks to Donna Catron for recording the minutes of the meeting in Karen Simpson's absence. Minutes of 1/7/98 meeting submitted by Karen Simpson.