

Staff Council Minutes

March 13, 2003

LaJean Rinker called the meeting to order.

Present: LaJean Rinker, Judy Liesmann, Jessie Davisson, Melissa Doebele, Kristine Jenkins, Mitch Higgs, Linda Spaulding, Sally Dyke, Kelli Clevenger, Caroline Fox, Shirley Jacobson, Donna Lacey, Lori Rognlie

Committee Reports

Benefits

Judy Leismann reported that some Washburn employees are having problems with costs for office visits through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Some doctors are coding the visit as a lab visit because lab work was performed during the office visit. If the visit isn't coded as an office visit, BCBS bills accordingly and the \$20 co-pay for an office visit doesn't apply and the patient is billed at a higher rate. Judy asked that we poll our groups to see if anyone has been having problems, what they are, etc. The committee is still looking into the definition of family and whether that includes domestic partners. They are also studying whether employees would get some reimbursement for sick leave days unused when the employee retires.

Change Management

Mitch Higgs reported that the Banner Bods are conducting an informational session on Finance budget queries again Friday, March 14, at 11 in Benton 210.

Corporate Volunteer

Nancy Zwiener was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the volunteer luncheon was great and that Washburn had paid for her lunch. Their next meeting will be March 20.

Recycling

Mike Jauken was unable to attend. LaJean received a note from Mr. Yang who said that signs will be placed on all recycling bins stating what can be recycled.

Safety

Donna Lacey noted that a guide for emergency evacuation had been distributed through campus mail. There was brief discussion about the city-wide tornado alert yesterday.

Employee Recognition Ceremony

Caroline Fox announced that plaques had not been updated for several years with the names of winners of the Outstanding Service Awards and plaques with names of the faculty winners. Plans are being made to update them and hang the plaques in the Union. If LaJean Rinker is nominated for a service award, Judy Liesmann will be the presenter. Forms to nominate staff for service awards have been distributed. The deadline for receipt of the forms is April 1 and should be sent to Caroline Fox.

Old Business

A nurse practitioner has been selected and the name will be presented to the Board of Regents tonight.

A student was hit in a crosswalk at 17th and Jewell last month. LaJean spoke with Dean Forrester concerning bright green crosswalk signs or a flashing light. He has talked with a city administrator who said that a flashing light was to be installed, but was installed near an elementary school instead. Washburn's request is still being considered.

New Business

Lori Rognlie distributed a sheet with possible ideas for an Employee Activities Committee so that employees from across the university could get together for social events. LaJean asked that we poll our groups to see if there is interest for establishing this committee.

Caroline Fox announced that Washburn's United Way campaign will be April 2-10. The theme is Spring Training. Dignitaries will fly in on a helicopter for the opening ceremony at 4 p.m. on April 2. The campaign will end with a slow pitch softball game between faculty and staff vs. the WU girls softball team.

LaJean spoke with President Farley. Phase II transitional housing (apartment style) with 200 beds will be proposed to the Board of Regents tonight. The possible location of the structure would be south of KTWU. President Farley said that they are also looking into possible increase in tuition but have to wait and see what the legislature does.

The next meeting will be April 2 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.