

# Staff Council Minutes

## March 14, 2007

Members present: Kelli Clevenger (Chair), Angela Valdivia, Wanda Hinton, Heidi Stepp, Vicki Baer, Lori Spurgeon, Becky Shaffer, Dee Barker, Joyce Hutchins, and Lori Rognlie.

Kelli called the meeting to order at 3:00pm in MO 204.

### Reports

#### From the President:

Dr. Farley thought the salary increase for staff would continue as structured, 4% increase. The governor has proposed a 4% increase for the Regent's institutions to the legislature for approval. Washburn University will participate in the Kansas Board of Regents Deferred Maintenance program. We will submit an application to receive funds for upgrades to our buildings. The VoTech schools believe support is not being given to them. There is a proposal for the organization of them to be under the Kansas Board of Regents, with the Regents hiring an executive director. President Farley is not in support of that proposal but will not work against it. He would like to have Kaw Valley Technical School under Washburn University.

A few of the WU Board of Regents items of interest are the two honorary degrees, we have a number of faculty coming up for promotion and/or tenure, two posthumous degrees, and some academic program changes that will take affect next year. The President also discussed a program to give scholarships to those nursing faculty earning a doctoral degree. The Kansas Board of Regents would give scholarships to those faculty earning degrees from KU. However, President Farley would like our Regents to consider the same type of program for our nursing faculty already attending doctoral programs at other universities.

Classroom renovations in Morgan and Stoffer are underway. Asbestos removal is needed in a portion of the Law School.

Alumni Weekend is April 19-21 and the Strawberry Breakfast will be coming up soon.

The search for a Chair in Mass Media is complete; Barbara DeSanto will start effective August, 2007. The search for the VPAA is underway and progressing very quickly. The field has been narrowed and reference calls are being made now. He hopes to have candidate visits by Commencement.

#### Corporate Volunteer:

Lori Rognlie reported Washburn University will host the Volunteer Awards luncheon on June 13, 2007 in the Bradbury Thompson Center. Collection of toiletries for Operation Clean Sweep is underway.

## **Benefits:**

Benefits meeting is next week. Kelli asked if someone could please attend in Val's absence.

## **Employee Recognition:**

Angela Valdivia reported the nominations have been received and judging has begun. It should finish on Friday, 3/16. When the scoring has been completed she will inform Human Resources and University Relations. She also made a suggestion to place the form on-line so that it could be accessed electronically. Wanda also suggested having a place to submit the e-mail addresses of the nominee and the supervisor. Lori made a suggestion that a certificate or plaque be given to the nominees.

## **Old Business**

Lori Spurgeon reported on the pink soap issue. There have been complaints of it smelling badly, the dispensers leaking, that it dries out skin, and that it may not kill the germs. She has talked with Shirley and has been told a different type/kind can be purchased. She will discuss further with Shirley and report at the next meeting.

An article in the WU Review stated students had voted on the smoking on campus issue. Becky did receive some feedback and will check into the student concerns and see if there is anything that can be done.

## **New Business**

None

## **Announcements**

Lori Rognlie announced the search for a Dean of the Mabee Library has been closed. It will re-open after August 1st.

The next meeting will be April 11, 2007 at 3:00pm in Morgan 204.

Meeting adjourned.