

Staff Council Minutes

May 1, 2002

Attendance: LaJean Rinker, Mitch Higgs, Donna Lacey, Heidi Crosland, Judy Leismann, Sally Dyke, Mary Beth Bero, Caroline Fox, Mary Grooms, Melissa Doebel, Elaine Gill

LaJean Rinker called the meeting to order.

Committee Reports

Employee Recognition Wrap Up

Ninety-five percent of those attending were pleased with the employee recognition ceremony and location. There were concerns in some areas that the employees were not able to attend since the offices were not closed. Friday afternoon seems to be the best time for faculty. The committee was pleased with the attendance.

Benefits

The committee is waiting for insurance company RFps to be returned for evaluation. Some members of staff council expressed their dissatisfaction with FlexBen as it takes so long to be reimbursed. The committee is also looking at companies that have both insurance and flexible payment plans.

Change Management

Mitch Higgs reported that the team is delivering tee-shirts to initial training groups. She asked if anyone had suggestions for training end users. The Pipeline should be completed by July 1. If anyone knows someone in their area that would like to be the first contact person on the new system, they should contact Mitch Higgs.

Corporate Volunteer

Nancy Zwiener sent word that there were opportunities to help cleanup the Topeka Cemetery on May 11 or May 18. The deadline for the Shining Star Award nominations was April 25. Nancy sent e-mail to the Washburn community about community volunteer opportunities.

Recycling

Mary Beth Bero gave the report for Betty Fischer. The university is recycling about 49 percent of the total trash. We are encouraged to recycle more paper.

Safety

Donna Lacey reported that the committee has not met but Tom Wiencek is available to check out problems.

Evaluations

The new form still has not been approved by the Executive Staff. Old forms were distributed for staff evaluations this year.

Old Business

Employees may take their life insurance with them when they resign or retire. The insurance policy would convert from a group rate to an individual rate and the individual would be responsible for paying the higher rate. It was suggested that Human Resources send a general e-mail to inform all employees of this option.

New Business

Carol Emert said the Parking Lot E has been littered with trash and bottles after the weekend. She had come in early one Monday to clean up before the accreditation team came in to evaluate the Mulvane Art Museum. LaJean will contact Facilities Services for the clean up and Student Life to check up on the campus beer drinking. A comment was made that the entrance is difficult to maneuver if you are arriving from the south.

LaJean met with President Farley. He responded to the question why a sprinkling system is being installed and we probably won't get much for raises. Money was set aside three years ago for the sprinkling system into Capital Funds. Money cannot be transferred from Capital Funds to salaries. The financial picture for funds from the state is poor. Washburn will probably be cut \$500,000. Dr. Farley was pleased at the responses he received from his e-mail to the Washburn community about the financial picture.

Staff council agreed not to meet in June and July unless something pressing comes up.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.