

Staff Council Minutes

September 7, 2005

Present: Brenda White, Kristin Kelly, Lori Rognlie, Susan Jarchow, Judy Liesmann, Dee Barker, Kelli Clevenger, Lynn Bailey, Janet Degginger, Jessie Smith, Melody Doyal, Linda Santiago, Marsha Madl, and Lori Spurgeon.

Sue Jarchow called the meeting to order.

Reports

From the President

Discussion about hurricane relief efforts by W.U., and how W.U. may be affected by the hurricane. W.U. is expecting some students to attend school here that have been displaced by the hurricane. W.U. is offering in-state tuition costs for those affected. Also some W.U. employees are assisting the Red Cross or Salvation Army with relief efforts. There is a W.U. web page that offers info. on current efforts at W.U.

Enrollment #s remains the same as previous semester, but credit hours have increased. W.U. will be looking at retention rates and continue to pursue growth for the next 3-4 years. These decisions came after asking for input through the Town hall meetings last semester.

Smoking policy discussion/issue seems to have "died" according to President Farley and Duke Divine, who initiated the survey and discussion.

Corportate Volunteer

no report.

Benefits

Judy Liesmann reported that there will be no increase in fees for W.U. employees for health insurance this year. The Benefits committee has forwarded 3 items to President Farley to recommend to the board concerning health insurance changes:

1. Increase the outpatient lab and x-ray coverage from \$300.00 to \$500.00 for individuals.
2. Increase the maximum lifetime benefit from two million dollars to five million dollars.
3. Offer a third option for W.U. health care insurance that is a high deductible/health savings account.

President Farley will take items #a & #b to the Board meeting on Friday, Sept. 9th, but wanted to research item #c further, before offering this as an option in health care insurance. One area needing further research on this type of plan would be the financial effects to the university.

The Benefits committee also reviewed the Wellness Program and budget as presented by Roy Wohl and the subcommittee. This Wellness Program will be taken to the board by Pres. Farley as an informational item. There was some discussion about the title of the position to manage this program and about tying the incentives more closely to health/wellness improvement costs.

Benefits committee will have a subgroup look at revising/reviewing the Shared Sick Leave program.

Future discussion will take place on the cap on Personal Leave by the Benefits committee.

Reinstatement of Benefits Policy

question about any employee having success in implementing this board approved policy? No action from Human Resources has been taken. Some staff council members stated they thought there was some difficulty in providing records for employees requesting this.

Nominations and Elections

Sue Jarchow presented a timeline for the nomination and election procedures for the upcoming Staff Council elections.

- Sept. 8th - send notification to staff regarding elections
- Sept. 12th - send notification to staff of nominations being accepted
- Sept. 26th - voting begins
- Sept. 30 - voting ends
- Oct. 3rd - e-mail received by those elected
- Oct. 5th - Staff Council meeting with newly elected members and outgoing members.

A staff council e-mail alias has been created for the elections. (staffcouncil-elections@washburn.edu) Kelli Clevenger and Judy Liesmann will assist with tabulating ballots. Areas up for election include: Admin. B-Lori Spurgeon, Admin. C-Mike Stover, Admin. D-Brenda White, Admin. F-Susan Jarchow, Hourly B-Lynn Bailey, Hourly D-Judy Liesmann, Hourly F-Linda Santiago, Hourly H-Kelli Clevenger, Hourly J-Mike Jauken, Hourly C-Jessie Smith

Old Business

Recognition of Retired Persons

there is a difference between years of service to the university for faculty and staff before they can be recognized as emeriti. (Faculty-5 yrs., Staff-20 yrs.) Sue brought this information to the President. Sue suggests that next year's Staff Council pursue recognizing retired staff at the recognition ceremony. Lori Rognlie was nominated to organize the recognition ceremony for the coming year.

Training

Discussion about what has happened to the New Employee Orientation for the campus. The video was completed. No orientation has been implemented yet. Sue will put this on the agenda to bring to President Farley at the Oct. meeting.

New Business

Helping W.U. families

Lori Rognlie asked about whether there could be a project started that could assist W.U. families in need, rather than employees adopting a family through organizations such as the Christmas Bureau. A subcommittee will be formed at the next meeting to look into this idea.

Announcements

1. Career Day is next Wed., Sept. 14th in Lee Arena
2. Majors Fair is today, Sept. 7th.
3. Next Tues. & Wed. are Technology Town Hall meetings at 3pm in Stoffer 103.
4. Family Day is this Saturday, Sept. 10th
5. WUAAA-Lori Rognlie wants to know of any staff changes in the Administrative Assistants group.

Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5th from 3:00-4:00pm. Location will be announced when room is confirmed.