

Staff Council Minutes

October 1, 2003

Meeting was called to order by Chair, LaJean Rinker with the following members in attendance: LaJean Rinker, Donna Lacey, Gene Cassell, Lynn Bailey, Elaine Gill, Brenda White, Susan Jarchow, Marsha Madl, Val Bauman, Mary Grooms, Kelli Clevenger, Mitch Higgs, Shirley Jacobson, Mike Jauken.

Because there were some groups where no one chose to "run" for Staff Council, the following motion was made, seconded, and carried. We allow a one time exception to the bylaws to enable a person to represent a group outside of their area. There was a tie in Group B Wage and Hour and the representative was determined by a coin toss. Lynn Bailey will represent this group and Marsha Madl will represent Memorial Union.

LaJean then welcomed Dr. Farley who spoke to the group on a number of topics. He commented that the budget is good despite the loss of income from sales tax and the Legislature. A tuition increase was necessary but was smaller than surrounding universities. Our insurance program experienced a 8% increase which is also smaller than many businesses, etc. in the Topeka area.

Washburn is undertaking an academic program assessment and town hall meetings, etc., will be scheduled in the near future. Construction is booming on campus. The student apartments will be ready for occupancy in August 2004 and the Student Fitness and Wellness center should be ready for students in October 2004. Plans for the beginning of the art building are "on hold" due to a slowing of fundraising efforts. A waterfall will be constructed on the NE corner of campus. The Law School will be undergoing extensive renovation - the first since it was built over 30 years ago. A Stoffer Committee has been named to determine renovation plans for the many labs, etc. in the sciencebuilding which are outdated. Despite the forecast, sales tax revenues were up in July and it is hoped that the Legislature may also establish more funding for WU this coming year. The working relationship with the KS Board of Regents is very good at this time and WU and the city of Topeka have a good rapport and are also working together well at this time.

Enrollment is up and things are looking good for WU!

A question was posed about the growth of WU and how we would accommodate rising parking needs. We lost approximately 120 parking spaces in the KTWU lot this fall due to construction but will gain those back plus an additional 60 when the new apartments open next fall. A few more parking spaces will be added with the completion of the wellness center and more parking may be made available between the baseball and softball fields. As far as growth at WU is concerned, we will be able to handle a few hundred more students without having to build new classroom space, etc., so we may need to limit growth in the future. We reached the 7000 goal about 2 years earlier than planned. Another question was posed as to the future use of the former married student housing area on the SE corner of campus. At this time there are no plans to use

that area. It is considered "too far" from the center of campus to be used at the present time. President Farley was thanked for his time.

Election of officers for the upcoming year was held. Judy Liesman was elected as chair; Kelli Clevenger was Vice Chair; and Shirley Jacobson as Secretary.

Committee Reports

Benefits

Committee needs another volunteer - Susan Jarchow volunteered. Brief discussion about health insurance rate increase (Judy has a copy of the minutes from that meeting). The Cafeteria Plan changed to Security Benefit. Sign up by deadline of Oct. 10.

Change Management

Mitch Higgs - Town hall meeting not well attended, not many faculty.

Corporate Volunteer

Still need a volunteer - will put on hold til next meeting.

Recycling

Mike still receives complaints about recycled paper being dumped with trash. Mentioned that they do recycle cardboard (no food containers or pizza boxes); recycleable paper includes magazines, envelopes (regular and window), soft cover books, if hard cover then tear off covers. No plastic such as pop bottles. Continue to put shredded paper in trash bags and tie. Humane Society can use shredded paper if we can get it to them.

Safety

No news.

Elections (final report)

Two groups had no representatives (Morgan Administration and Union W/H).

Old Business

TCT survey did not go out.

New Business

Possibly have online surveys.

Next meeting Wed. Nov. 5 at 3 pm.