

Staff Council Minutes

September 6, 2000

Members Present: Betty Fischer, Sue Peek, Mitch Higgs, Janet Lassiter, Sally Dyke, Connie DiPasquale, Gayla Sarkesian, Dorothy Hedman, Rich Robbins, Jane Stewart, Heidi Crosland, Marj Murray, and Mary Beth Bero.

Guest: John Warren, Head of Washburn Police Department.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Betty Fischer.

Dorothy Hedman moved to approve the August 2 minutes. It was seconded by Janet Lassiter and passed by voice vote to post the August 2, 2000 Minutes to the web.

GUEST SPEAKER

John Warren, head of the Washburn Police Department, gave us a short synopsis of his experience in law enforcement from 1974 to present. In 1974 he became Captain of the Pittsburg, Kansas Police Department, in 1987 he was a Special Investigator for the Kansas Securities Commission, and in 1996 he became Chief of Police in Junction City, Kansas.

Education is important and he believes in young people. He states things plainly to the students: "Do what I say or go to jail", and he will not tolerate lying.

He is projecting a new image to the Washburn Police with new uniforms, professional training, and being more customer oriented. The name Security implies unprofessional and untrained thus the name change to Washburn Police.

Parking is a problem issue on campus. There are plenty of parking spaces but you will have to walk and that presents the problem. Open parking would solve this situation. John would like to have a one year test period on Open Parking and then reevaluate permit parking versus open parking.

Washburn Police will face a big challenge when the Living Learning Center opens with 400 new students on campus.

Handicap parking was discussed. There is handicap parking not being used and some buildings are needing more handicap parking. The ADA requires a certain number of parking spaces per campus or per building. By building we have enough handicap parking spaces but by campus we are short on parking spaces.

It was suggested that Police Officers walk through the building and get to know the staff. John has this planned in the future as it is good public relations.

A concern has been expressed in reference to the Crosswalks on 17th Street. These are dangerous for people wanting to cross the street and could we explore getting a flashing light at these crosswalks. John is aware of this problem and feels there are too many crosswalks. He will draft a letter to the City about this situation and then they will have to do a traffic study and possibly a flashing light will be placed at the crosswalk(s).

The issue of securing a building if a window was left open was addressed. If the window is on the ground level, which might hinder security of that building, the Washburn Police would close the window. Faculty or staff sometime come back at night and leave doors open after the police have checked the building and thought it was secure. This presents added problems to the Washburn Police. So please, for your safety also, do not leave the doors open.

Inquiry was made as to the procedure followed for a bomb threat. Most threats are usually false and Washburn Police worry more about letter or package bombs. You can arrange to have John or someone from his department come to talk about safety with each interested department and arrange for a special code for a bomb threat.

The matter of difficult people on campus was conveyed. The advice given was to document each incident with a difficult person and forward it to Washburn Police and your department head. John's department will be aware of this person and will check their background. Mentally unstable people are the hardest to deal with.

The matter of having mirrors on hallways that are isolated was brought up. Mirrors are a cheap and good deterrent against crime.

With the changing times security is more important. Be sure to lock all valuables. Never hesitate to call John's office for assistance or e-mail him at zzjwarre@washburn.edu with any questions.

Betty Fischer thanked John for sharing this important information with Staff Council.

REPORT FROM ELECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Janet Lassiter and Gayla Sarkesian distributed the Self-Nominating Form for Staff Council Representative Ballots to the eight areas that are up for reelection. The voting ballots will go out September 18 and are due back September 25. A discussion followed about how to get more people interested in Staff Council. Staff Council has been responsible for many changes occurring on campus such as Staff Development, changes in Employee Recognition Ceremony, getting mail delivered to buildings on campus that were not getting mail service and appointment from Staff Council to many subcommittees, which are working to improve the campus and benefits for employees. Staff Council is the forum to bring problems to and seek solutions and is very important to the University. More people should avail themselves of this opportunity to volunteer to serve.

It was concluded to have a Reception for the newly elected Staff Council members. Janet Lassiter and Gayla Sarkesian will organize the reception and will ask Bob Stoller to extend an invitation to President Farley to visit the October Staff Council meeting.

A suggestion from Rich Robbins stating a need to restructure our groups on campus for Staff Council as many departments have moved and other changes have occurred on campus.

UPDATE FROM BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The EBC will meet on Monday. Bob Stoller will recruit a volunteer at the next meeting to replace Sheri Perry's on this committee.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A concern had been expressed that Staff Council deal with a problem of better communications with Human Resources. It was suggested to ask Bob Stoller to meet with Deborah Birney to see how improvements of this objective can be accomplished.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Bero
Secretary