

Staff Council Minutes

October 10, 2007

Members present: Val VanDerSluis (Chair), Angela Valdivia, Wanda Hinton, Lori Spurgeon, Becky Shaffer, Dee Barker, Angela Horn, Jennifer Hill, Joyce Hutchins, Vicki Baer, CJ Crawford, Lynn Bailey, John Haverty, Karen Simpson, Ginger Spivey, and Les Coover.

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

Reports

From the President:

Between Val's schedule and the President's, a meeting could not be arranged. The new Staff Council Chair will give the President's report at the next meeting.

Corporate Volunteer:

Lori Rognlie was not able to attend the meeting but sent word to please keep sending toiletries. We have until December 4th for collection. On that date, please bring the collection box to the Union at 11:30am to the Northwest Corner. Agencies that receive the toiletries include: Let's Help, Door Step, Salvation Army, Breakthrough House, Women's Recovery Center and Florence Crittenton Services, and they are all grateful for everything they receive.

Benefits:

Benefits committee discussed several topics.

- An agenda item will be presented at the WU Board of Regents to approve an administrative leave day on December 24, 2007.
- It was decided that a natural disaster doesn't happen too often and it wouldn't effect that many people so no leave program will be instituted. Topic Closed.
- Unlike personal leave, sick leave is an unfunded program. There is not a pool of funds and it is not included in the budget. This is the same with State and other local agencies. Topic Closed.
- A formal request for consideration of the removal of use of a personal day was presented to President Farley by Dr. Rood, chair of benefits. President Farley sent a letter back to Dr. Rood that stated, currently, Washburn has 10 personal/vacation days which is in line with other universities as well as the county and state employees. To remove use of the personal day would require an additional paid personal day for all employees and that is not possible at this time. It appears this subject is closed with the administration at this time.

Staff Council Elections:

We have some new and existing members for staff council. Nominations and Elections were performed.

- Chair: John Haverty
- Vice Chair: Becky Shaffer
- Secretary: Vicki Baer

Benefits Committee representatives are: John Haverty, Angela Valdivia, Val VanDerSluis, and Becky Shaffer. Since a representative could not be found for Hourly F, Lori Rognlie volunteered to be their representative. Val volunteered to be the representative for Admin E.

Old Business

Soap and paper towel dispensers are scheduled to be installed in all buildings. These will be installed as soon as possible however other projects will take priority.

WU will not be a partner with the American Heart Association and their various yearly activities. The Staff Council felt that this could keep people from volunteering or donating funds for other activities like the United Way. Val discussed this concern with Tom Ellis and both agreed that WU cannot be involved with everything. Some projects may work for the University, at different times, however WU cannot be expected to take part in everything they are approached with. This is now a closed issue.

New Business

An issue regarding dog walking and waste has been brought to staff council. It has been noticed, several instances of dog waste on and close to the sidewalks. After talking with several people, signage is not an option. In addition, placing baggie dispensers around campus probably would not be an option either due to the added maintenance of maintaining the bags and dispensers and there would also be a need for more trash cans to dispose of the waste. Lori Spurgeon also checked with Parks and Recreation, they do not have any signs on trails and parks except in the Bark Park. She also noted there is not any law regarding dog waste. One option that seems viable, is to send a gentle reminder to the neighborhood associations. Lori will work up a draft for John to take with him to discuss with the President.

An issue was brought to staff council concerning years of service and the recognition ceremony. If “years of service” includes all previous years of service in a benefits eligible status whether or not employment has been continuous, then can Washburn give consideration to computing years of service for purpose of the Staff Recognition ceremony in the same way? Val will discuss this issue with Human Resources.

Announcements

KTWU Auction begins November 1-4.

Homecoming is next week. Lots of activities are happening. Don't forget to vote for your favorite Top Hat by placing money in the jars. All proceeds will go to the United Way.

Meeting adjourned.