



Staff Assembly Council Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2008

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Place: Learning Commons 330D

Present: Susan Babbel, Diane Cranor, Tom Farrell, Sam Florio, Joe Guidace, Christina Johnson, Phil Livak, Danielle Schnabel (for Alma McChesney), Nikole Nichols, Apryl Roberts, Arcelia Rodriguez, Jim Rowan, Mary Sexton, Fred Smith, and Jenny Stoddard

1. Approval of July Minutes

We accepted minutes of the July 17th meeting.

2. President's Reports

a. Meeting with Bob Warren, Vice-President for Administration and Finance

Jim Rowan summarized his meeting with Bob Warren earlier in the month covering the following topics:

- three SAC-sponsored annual events per year: The Staff Faire, Spring Fling, and Staff Recognition Dinner
- a SAC-sponsored Community Service Project
- a limited number of parking passes for people who walk or bike to campus
- a proposal to change the name of the Staff Assembly Council to the Staff Senate
- committee report on health care benefits for retirees
- a separate budget for SAC
- a staff lounge (no money to pursue this at this time)
- a representative from Bob Warren's office to attend SAC Executive Committee meetings

3. Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee: met two weeks earlier to discuss the Staff Faire and plan for today's SAC meeting

b. Elections Committee: Susan Babbel and Jim Rowan will plan a special election to fill the Council seat vacated because Anna Olmos (HR) has left the University. Nominations and voting may be delayed because of vacations among HR staff.

c. Communications and d. Newsletter: Tom Farrell will work on producing a staff newsletter. Tom and Mary Sexton will update the Staff Assembly website.

e. Group email application demonstration: at the end of the meeting, Jim demonstrated the new application he developed for eCampus that allows council members to send group emails to their constituents.

4. Events--Staff Faire:

Apryl Roberts and Arcelia Rodriguez reported on progress for the Staff Faire, including menu options. Jenny Stoddard has volunteered to set up tables, etc., for the Faire.

5. Community Service Project

Nikole Nichols led the discussion about a Community Service Project, asking whether the Council envisioned a one-time project or a continuing commitment. The Ignatian Center already plans a September 17th orientation meeting on campus to recruit volunteers for the Julian Street Inn. An alternative model for a Community Service Project is "Step Forward Day," a one-time project involving many participants followed by a social gathering. Some suggested an environmental clean-up project, in keeping with the "green" theme for this year's council.

Nikole will check back with Paul Woolley to see whether the September 17th orientation is exclusively for the Julian Street Inn or whether it could be expanded to encourage both kinds of project. Either way, the SAC can publicize the orientation through e-mails, flyers and word-of-mouth.

6. Mighty Broncos—Triathlon Team Fundraiser

The fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday August 28th at 4:00 in the Adobe Lodge. Jim Rowan, one of the 18 team members, encouraged attendance. An auction last week netted more than \$1,000 for cancer research.

7. Bicyclist Parking Permit Initiative

Phil Livak, Jim Rowan, and Mary Sexton plan to meet with Lindsey Cromwell to work on providing bicyclists and walkers with occasional parking privileges, comparable to those provided to those who commute via public transportation. There was a discussion of past efforts and potential problems with verification. Questions about how people commute to work may be included on a staff survey being prepared for distribution in connection with the Staff Faire.

8. Retiree Health Care Benefits

In his meeting with Bob Warren (see # 2, above), Jim Rowan discussed the Retiree Health Benefit Recommendation report that the Benefits Ad Hoc Committee submitted in June. Jim summarized the report for the Council and distributed additional information after the meeting.

The report divided retirees into three groups and proposes the following benefits for those in the three groups; the benefit would vest after 15 years of service to the University:

a. for people who will be 65 as of July 1, 2009, and have at least 15 years of service at the University on that date, the report recommends that the University contribute 100% of the local average cost of a Medicare Advantage plan to a trust;

b. for people ages 55 – 64 with at least 15 years of service as of July 1, 2009, the report recommended that the University contribute \$350 or more per year to each employee's Health Savings Account, more as a "catch-up" provision, to provide much the same benefit as that received by the first group, above, upon retirement;

c. for people age 40 - 54 on July 1, 2009, the report recommended a \$350 per year contribution by the University to each individual employee's Health Savings Accounts.

Two members of the committee, Jim Rowan and Emile McAnany, found it inequitable to require that employees who are 65 years of age or over to have 15 years of service on July 1, 2009 and to require that employees in the "catch up" group (50-64) already have 15 years of service on July 1, 2009 to have "catch up" payments made to their account. They suggested, instead, a requirement of 15 years of service prior to entitlement/vesting of benefits.