

# Washburn University Staff Council Meeting Minutes

**December 8, 2020**

Members Present – Christa Smith, Meagan Smejdir, Jackie Askren, Drew Liggett, Blaine Smith, Emily Schneider, Jennifer Bixel, Matt Busey, Katherine Iwig, Leah Brown, Marie Hall, Beth Matthews, Nancy Province, James Scotti

Members Not Present – Erik Carlson, [Jan Martin](#)

Guests – Dr. Joel Bluml, Whitney Slater, Brent Trammell, Deb Mikulka

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christa Smith at 3:02pm.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Attendance was taken by Zoom chat.
- III. Guest Speaker, Dr. Joel Bluml, Associate Vice President for Student Life
  - a. What is the possibility of free Faculty/Staff Memberships to the SRWC?
    - i. During the times of COVID-19, we have seen reduced usage of the SRWC, along with general decrease of people physically coming to campus
    - ii. Some staff may appreciate a short term (6 months or so) of a free membership; if the limited time was approved and properly advertised, there could cause some new traffic to the SRWC
    - iii. Staff Council should evaluate if we want to make a request for temporary, free memberships to the SRWC – Christa will bring this up to Dr. Farley in their next meeting
  - b. SRWC History
    - i. Students were intended to be the focus of the SRWC facility, per the policies when the building was constructed; we want to focus on not displacing students in a space that is dedicated the health & wellness of students
    - ii. Faculty/Staff membership is \$150 per year or \$12.50 per month
    - iii. Through the Employee Wellness Program, membership to the SRWC can be free; there are other incentives through the Employee Wellness Program that equal the \$150 amount
      1. Most participants in the Employee Wellness Program choose options other than the SRWC membership
        - a. 85%-90% of participants choose the Bod Bucks incentive
    - iv. Employee Wellness Program incentives are not tied to insurance premiums, due to Washburn's insurance
    - v. With COVID-19, the incentive for the Employee Wellness Program has not been offered; participation rates during the COVID-19 pandemic has decreased
    - vi. 200-250 members of the SRWC each year, prior to COVID-19

- vii. The SRWC does not have any revenue expectation with paid memberships; this money goes back to the operation of the SRWC, so giving free membership could have some implications for the SRWC

IV. Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes (Motion)

- a. Voting
  - i. Motion – Matt Busey
  - ii. Second – Jackie Askren
  - iii. Votes
    1. Yay – 14
    2. Nay – 0
    3. Abstain – 0

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Chair Report – Christa Smith
  - i. Meeting with Dr. Farley (12/1)
    1. Student credit hours to be down in the spring 2021 semester
    2. Fall semester credit hours should be similar to the spring semester
    3. Residence hall occupancy has been decreased, and we expect a continued decrease in students living on campus (currently at 60% or lower occupancy)
    4. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution – not much information yet, but we will likely follow the public health/governmental guidelines
    5. We are the advisory board to the University President, so if there is anything you want Christa to bring up during their weekly meeting, please let her know!
- b. Board of Regents Meeting Update – Christa Smith
  - i. Next meeting on 12/17 at 4pm, live streamed on You Tube
- c. All Faculty/Staff Email/Posting Committee – Jackie Askren
  - i. No Updates (likely no meeting yet)
- d. Benefits Committee – Jennifer Bixel, Emily Schneider, Christa Smith
  - i. No Updates
- e. Food Advisory Committee – Jan Martin
  - i. Winter Schedule – available online; expect limited hours for both Lincoln Dining Hall and the Corner Store
- f. Parking Ticket Committee – Leah Brown and Blaine Smith
  - i. Contact Chief Enos to notify him of Staff Council members; there may not be a huge need for the committee to meet since we have fewer people on campus currently
- g. Safety Committee – Beth Mathews
  - i. Meeting on 12/1/2020
    1. Washburn is going to be a distribution point in Shawnee County for the COVID-19 vaccine
    2. Indoor Athletic Facility is scheduled to be turned over to Washburn sometime between mid-December and early January
  - ii. Next meeting will be on 1/27/2020

VI. Old Business:

- a. Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Supporting Resolution Letter of Support
  - i. Received some concerns from staff members on campus about the tobacco and smoke-free resolution
    - 1. Constituents have expressed concerns that implementing a smoking and/or tobacco-free campus could be infringing on the rights of specific groups of people on campus, if they choose to use tobacco
    - 2. Constituents were concerned that there is some ulterior motive to this resolution – Christa reassured that the goal of this resolution is not tied to any ulterior motives
    - 3. When Washburn offers events that are open to the public, a smoke and/or tobacco-free policy could complicate these events
    - 4. It is possible that people’s opinions have changed since we did the staff survey, but conducting another survey at this time would be a challenge
  - ii. Christa will continue working on the letter, and share the draft with Staff Council before publishing

VII. New Business:

- a. WUmester Sustainability Events
  - i. Please view the information in our Share Point folder to learn about opportunities to participate in WUmester during spring 2021

VIII. Informational Items:

- a. Next Meeting: January 12, 2021 – Zoom Video Conference - 3:00 - 4:00 pm
- b. Remember that Christmas Eve (12/24) is a holiday, but we will need to take a personal day on 12/30 if you will not be working
- c. The University Holiday Party will be drive through on 12/17 from 3pm-5pm

IX. Adjournment (Motion)

- a. Motion – Kathy Iwig
- b. Second – Nancy Province
- c. Vote
  - i. Yay – 14
  - ii. Nay - 0
  - iii. Abstain – 0

*Minutes submitted by Staff Council Secretary Meagan Smejdir.*