

Staff Council

April 12, 2011 Minutes

Present: Lynn Bailey, Donna Lacey, Brenda White, Jenith Hoover, Cathy Latham, Melissa Lewis, Marsha Carrasco Cooper, Lou Olsen, Vicki Baer, Marcia Lessenden, Dona K. Walker, Jennifer Bixel, Curtis Von Lintel

Rick Anderson, Vice President for Administration & Treasurer, spoke and answered various questions posed to him by Council members. He addressed the concern for the legislative conference committee which will begin meeting to resolve the proposed \$5.5 million budget cut to Washburn. \$5.5 million amounts to approximately 7.5 % of the University's budget. He said that there is strong support in the Senate to eliminate that budget cut, that options for adjusting to such a budget cut would be to raise tuition for multiple years or cut costs by eliminating programs or services over multiple years, along with the use of some reserves. He stated that Washburn's debt structure is low and that the University is in good financial condition. Washburn Tech is outside of the proposed budget cut, but could be affected by budget cuts to K-12 schools. In response to questions about outsourcing, VPAT Anderson responded that currently food service, elevator maintenance and major vehicle maintenance are outsourced. He stated that the savings from outsourcing primarily comes from retirement and benefits provided to employees. His preference is to provide services in-house when possible. Mr. Anderson stated that any salary increases for Washburn employees will be affected by the salary cuts State of Kansas employees. He stated that he envisions a role for both online class technology and classroom growth here at Washburn.

Lynn reported from his meeting with Dr. Farley that the President has written support from all five state institutions and the Kansas Board of Regents regarding the proposed budget cut. Dr. Farley feels confident that the cut will be eliminated from the final budget bill.

Benefits Committee – Lynn reported that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are being prepared for long-term care plans and prescription management. Lynn requested a volunteer from administration to serve on the Benefits Committee. Curtis volunteered.

The supervisors of those chosen for the outstanding service awards have been notified and asked to encourage the individuals who were selected to attend the ceremony on April 19. Dona will present awards at the ceremony. For those employees unable to attend the ceremony, gifts may be picked up in the Human Resources office following the event.

In response to the query about Washburn's calendar not coinciding with USD 501's calendar, it's because USD 501's calendar is set at the start of every year. Washburn sets its calendar several years in advance.

Lynn reported that coat hooks are being installed inside restroom stalls, starting with the women's restrooms. A constituent requests that consideration be given to baby change tables

being installed in men's restrooms as well as in women's restrooms in all buildings if not currently present.

Lynn encouraged all Council members to review the preliminary technology report that he distributed recently and provide feedback to him.

Council adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Submitted by Vicki Baer, Staff Council Secretary