

# Staff Council Minutes

## April 22

Present: John Haverty, Lori Rognlie, Melissa Lewis, Marcia Lessenden, Lisa Heigert, Beth Kuhn, Vicki Baer, Joyce Hutchins, Karen Simpson, Sandy Selden, Ginger Spivey, Kristin Forster, CJ Crawford, and Shirley Jacobson.

### Report from President

The Budget Advisory Committee has been meeting approximately every two weeks. They have been discussing the comments from the town hall meetings one by one. The items that have made it to the top of the list and are being discussed at more depth are: health insurance, WTE, compensation changes, TIAA CREF (reducing amount Washburn contributes by 1%), and base salary reductions by 1% for everyone OR excluding lower salary bracket. The University has to come up with approximately \$1.3 million dollars to be in good standing.

It was also noted that the University was not going to cut the Employee Recognition Ceremony, the Strawberry Breakfast, or the Holiday Party as these are good morale boosters for the University. The funds for the Strawberry Breakfast and the Recognition Ceremony do not come out of our operation budget.

### Corporate Volunteer Report

Lori Rognlie reported that the Volunteer Center is currently working on a new Youth Volunteer program and the Operation Clean Sweep will be moved to early October with a new name.

June 16th is the Volunteer Awards Lunch. This is a community event to spotlight exceptional volunteers for outstanding contributions to the community. Nominations are due by May 15, 2009 to the United Way. For more information contact Lori at ext. 1986.

### Benefits Committee Report

John reported that the benefits committee met on Feb. 18th. The University is going to stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield as it is not a viable option to go out for bid due to our high claims. Discussion at this time is on the possibilities of changing the tiers, increasing co-pays and having a single plan rate.

### Action Items

The Bylaws update has been reviewed by Ken Hackler and the final draft will be completed soon.

The Employee Recognition Ceremony was reviewed and improvements and changes were discussed. It was suggested that all nominations be placed in employee personnel files and to have certificates for all service award nominees. It was clarified that the committee is made up of a few staff council members and the winners from the previous year. The committee currently notifies the winner prior to the ceremony.

## **Discussion Items**

The strategic plan initiatives web form is currently work-in-process.

The method of notification to the individual employee for a deposit made into their personal bank account for a reimbursement payment was briefly discussed. It was decided that individual employees need to contact the Finance Office for questions.

HVAC work in Morgan Hall this summer was discussed. Bill Glatts is the contact person for this project and he provided a list of who was moving, when and where. It was noted that the North area would be blocked to reduce the amount of noise and dust but at this time there were no other answers in regards to the many concerns related to working conditions etc.

## **Announcements**

Next Staff Council Meeting is Wednesday, May 20th at 2pm.

Meeting Adjourned.