Staff Council Minutes  
March 2, 2005  

Members present: Lynn Bailey, Lori Rognlie, Val VanDerSluis, Kelli Clevenger, Kristin Kelly, Judy Liesmann, Jessie Smith, Mike Jaukin, Janet Degginger, Marsha Madl, Stephanie Teeselink, Linda Santiago, Mike Stover, Lori Spurgeon, Brenda White.

Lynn Bailey called the meeting to order.

Reports

President

- Continued discussion on the smoking policy. Some response to move the smoking area/ashtrays away from doorways into alternate locations.
- Sales tax has increased. There will be a 4% pool for salary increases this coming fiscal year.
- A tuition increase for FY '05-'06 is expected. It will be an increase in the single digits.
- There will be more faculty positions for the new year.
- A printed mission, values, goals, & strategic planning book will be dispersed soon. They are waiting to ratify a portion of the book before releasing to the public.
- The new Art building will open before summer. Some of the delay in opening was caused by an increase in the price of steel. The Stoffer building renovation and addition was also affected by this increase.

What to look for this spring:

- A new Faculty Senate, which will replace the University Council.
- Finalization of the direction the university will take in respect to enrollment and previous town hall meetings.
- Discussion about recruitment and retention of Hispanic students.

Corporate Volunteer

No report.

Benefits

- A Women's Health Program was discussed and researched to benefit employees that may need more lab fee coverage for high costs of lab fees such as mammograms, bone density, etc. More research by the committee will take place on the possibility of raising the limit of coverage for lab fees. Harold Rood will speak with Deb Moore on the costs and benefits of a proposal that might raise the lab fee maximum by $100 or $200 annually.
- Funeral Leave- adding this as a separate benefit was discussed in length. The Benefits committee voted and reports that the committee felt existing coverage from sick leave,
personal leave and leave without pay were adequate coverage for employees, without adding a separate funeral leave policy.

- Shared Leave- the committee will look at the original draft of the Shared Leave policy that was proposed and the current policy. Deb Moore has more information and statistics on this program and would like to present the information at the next meeting.
- Reinstatement of Benefits policy has been approved. No signed policy has been forwarded to the Human Resources office yet.

Technology Team

Mike Stover reported that the Imaging project is underway and a pilot area has been identified but not announced. The hardware for the project has been ordered.

- Additional training is needed in the Finance area. Several people from Finance, AIS/ITS are working on the sessions needed.

Employee Recognition Ceremony

Lori Spurgeon reported for Martha McCoy. They have received many good applications. The review process will start tomorrow.

360-degree subgroup

Jessie Smith reported that they are still researching information from websites, resources from Donna Clark and others before they look at evaluating this process and reporting back to Staff Council.

Old Business:

Christmas Club-discussion. Linda Santiago looked into how this could be done. Brad Merryman stated that most Credit Unions would work with these types of funds, but some banks would not. WU employees currently can earmark funds from their paycheck to go into separate accounts. A limit of three separate accounts to deposit into is allowed.

New Business:

Volunteer Recognition

no discussion.

Staff Development Grant

Lori Rognlie proposed that the council look into proposing a staff development grant to be used for conferences, seminar, & travel for staff. It could be set up much like the faculty development grant. Lori has researched and found that CMSU has a similar program. She reported on some of
the specifics of their program. Lori will gather more information on an existing, working system and report back to Staff Council.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.