Staff Council Minutes
August 1, 2001

Mary Beth Bero called the August 1, 2001 Staff Council meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Mary Beth Bero, LaJean Rinker, Sue Peek, Elaine Gill, Gayla Sarkesian, Betty Fischer, Brad Merryman, Karen Simpson (for Rich Robbins), Bob Stoller, Janet Lassiter, and guest Deborah Birney.

The May 2, 2001 minutes were approved to be posted to the web.

Mary Beth reported that she had sent a note of congratulations to Ron Wasserstein, new VPAA; a note of thanks to President Farley for his work on the budget and pay raises; and a thank you note to David Boose for his presentation at the May meeting. She also reported that Martha Imparato has printed out copies of the minutes and bylaws to be kept in the Mabee Archives. It was announced that Lynn Bailey is officially on Long Term Disability and Mary Grooms has volunteered to serve as alternate in his place and Karen Simpson has volunteered to replace Rich Robbins for August and September.

Janet Lassiter reported that as chair of the Elections committee she has prepared the self-nomination forms which will be handed out soon and will be due back on Sept. 7. The ballots will go out Sept. 19 and will be due on Sept. 26 so new members can attend October meeting. LaJean Rinker volunteered to assist Janet with the election and counting of ballots.

Committee Reports

Employee Recognition

Rich Robbins sent out a copy of the feedback received on the April ceremony and we will discuss any changes we need to make at our November meeting.

Benefits

Sue Peek reported that they have not met. The Shared Leave package is presently with the Executive Staff with the hopes that it will go to the Board of Regents this month. Deborah Birney reported that the Tiered Benefits package is "on hold" until we receive our new rates from Blue Cross/Blue Shield later this month. Many organizations have had large increases in their rates and if this happens at WU, this may not be a good year to implement the tiered plan. Rather we may need to look at deductible, benefits, etc. to keep costs from going really high.

Change Management

Talking communication, communication, ... Change is coming and it will affect all our lives. Hopefully the vendor package will go to the Board in September. The committee has chosen a vendor and now costs are being examined.
**Corporate Volunteer Council**

Janet had no report.

**Recycling**

Betty Fischer reported that 50% of our "trash" is presently being recycled and we were encouraged to keep reminding the people in our areas to continue to recycle.

**Safety**

No report.

**Summer Hours**

LaJean reported that the committee has decided this is one of the issues that is "not worth fighting for" so has abandoned efforts to institute this change.

**Homecoming**

No report.

**Longevity**

LaJean reported that this is another issue the committee should not be pursued. However, the Council felt that they wished to "keep it on the back burner" so it was tabled indefinitely.

**Evaluation**

Deborah Birney reported that the committee had met and came up with a rough draft of a new evaluation form. When this was taken to Senior Staff, they strongly suggested some numerical scoring in lieu of all subjective evaluating would be appropriate. More discussion will be held on this issue.

**Old Business**

LaJean reported that "Issues" the Staff Council has been concerned with have been updated and put on the Web page.

Mary Beth reported that she had contacted John Warren regarding the 17th Street crosswalk and it is on the city list for implementation. He had requested that it be put in as part of the Facilities Service budget but it was not included. Staff Council will suggest to President Farley that it be included as part of the annual Faculty-Staff giving campaign. The tornado procedures have been put on the Web and staff are encouraged to subscribe to Channel 27's weather warning system if they wish to be aware of severe weather. Security received additional funds for "help" telephones
and they are in the process of determining where these should be installed. It was reported that Lot E (west of Garvey) will soon be gated again and available for faculty/staff parking.

**Informational Items**

Betty Fischer reported that she had spoken with University Relations regarding cross referencing the WU directory and some areas will be cross referenced in the new directory.

Deborah Birney announced that the nominations for Washburn's Best to be held this fall will be going out soon.

Mary Beth announced that the Sept. 5 meeting will be held in the Kansas Room of the Union and she has reserved that room for the remainder of this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LaJean Rinker, Secretary