

# **Staff Council Minutes**

## **October 4, 2000**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Stoller. Everyone introduced themselves so we could learn names and employment places of new members.

The first order of business was election of new officers with the following results: Chair - Mary Beth Buro; Vice Chair - Bob Stoller; Secretary - LaJean Rinker.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the September minutes to be posted to the Web.

The Elections Committee reported that the elections went well and all positions are filled. The voter turnout was good with over 50% in each group voting. The races with more than one nominee were very close. It was suggested that in the future we clarify which areas are up for election as only half of the council is elected each year and there was some confusion this year. We also decided that we need to encourage more people to run for positions on Staff Council and a way to do this would be to make the campus aware of our accomplishments. An e-mail will be sent to the entire campus listing the following accomplishments of Staff Council: workshops, recycling, employee recognition changes (gifts, selection process, etc.), convocation, representation of staff on Benefits Committee, formation of a Wellness Committee with one of our members as Chair, and participation on the Corporate Volunteer Council. The Benefits Committee met on Monday and a representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield was present to explain the breakdown of tiered benefits regarding costs, numbers needed in each tier, etc. Deborah Birney and Allen Easley are drafting a survey that will determine campus interest in such a tiered system. The shared sick leave recommendation has gone to President Farley. Mary Allen agreed to serve as our new member on the Benefits Committee replacing Sheri Perry who has left campus.

At the last Staff Council concern was voiced about communication with Human Resources. Two areas that were of specific concern were phone calls not being returned and confidentiality. Bob Stoller met with Deborah Birney regarding these issues. Deborah reported to us that their office is up for Program Review this year and they will be sending out a survey to determine how well they are doing in various areas. They hope to get some significant information about their perceived usefulness through this process. Deborah also asked that if someone has a problem that they contact her directly OR contact someone on Staff Council who can relay the problem. She can't fix a problem if she is unaware of it. She may also ask Staff Council to poll their constituents regarding services received via Human Resources.

Bob Stoller explained what the Corporate Volunteer Council entails and asked for a volunteer to assume his position. Janet Lassiter will replace Bob on this Council and accompany Tom Ellis to their monthly meetings. Bob stated that some corporations have a volunteer committee who "sift through" all the requests for volunteers and choose 1 or 2 projects to adopt. He thought Washburn might look at this procedure for choosing their projects in the future.

LaJean Rinker reported that some of her constituents had approached her with the rumor that in the future all classified employees would be required to "clock in" via the computer. Both Bob and Deborah assured us that this was indeed just a rumor and there was nothing "in the works" to support this. What WILL happen in the future is that our time sheets will be on the computer and all payroll items will be submitted via computer.

It was also reported that someone had a problem with direct deposit slips going through campus mail. An employee at KTWU had experienced identity theft and it began on campus with her deposit slip. It was suggested that a solution would be to put these slips into campus mail envelopes. Of course, this would create more work for the Service Area employees.

Deborah Birney announced that the President had selected her as the campus United Way chair. The pledges, donations, etc. are due Nov. 1 so we will be receiving forms in the next week or 2. She also announced that the TIAA-CREF reps will be on campus next week. Another matter she brought to our attention was the need to have emergency contacts for campus personnel. Bill Langdon became ill while touring China and needed to be hospitalized in Seoul, Korea. It was necessary to contact next of kin and this became difficult until someone in his department knew about his family.

Connie Dipasquale mentioned the parking committee meeting for AAUP on October 17 at 2:30 p.m. and suggested we send a rep. Sue Peek will attend. Parking in the Henderson lot as well as "open" parking were discussed.

Connie also reported that John Warren is doing departmental inspections and has found several "illegal" situations that need to be remedied including using wedges under doors and having materials stacked to the ceiling in faculty offices. Morris Dees will be on campus October and since he is a controversial figure, campus security will be at an all time high. The evening campus walk through will be held soon. John Warren also requested that we notify his office if we have special needs students who have safety issues and need assistance from his office. After a brief discussion on forming a subcommittee to address redistributing the groups on Staff Council, Connie Dipasquale, Sue Peek, and Jane Stewart agreed to be on this committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. Our next meeting will be Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. in the Lincoln Room of Memorial Union.

LaJean Rinker, Secretary