Staff Council Minutes
November 14, 2007

Members present:  John Haverty (Chair), Angela Valdivia, Wanda Hinton, Lori Spurgeon, Dee Barker, Joyce Hutchins, Val VanDerSluis, Karen Simpson, Ginger Spivey, Lori Rognlie, and Heidi Stepp.

John called the meeting to order at 3:00pm in MO 204.

Reports

From the President:

Several policies are under review and should be implemented shortly.

- Criminal Background Checks – This is for new employees primarily working in the Police Department, Business Office, etc.
- Vehicle Driving – People driving students will need to have a valid driver’s license.
- Alcohol and Drug Policy – If a person is acting suspicious for drugs or alcohol, he/she can be tested.
- Children in the Workplace – When is it appropriate, or inappropriate, to bring kids to workplace. This policy discussion is primarily aimed at staff areas, but it will also address children in other areas of the workplace.

The President reported negotiations are underway with Kaw Area Technical School to be placed under Washburn University. Many details will need to be worked out. Stoffer Hall renovation should be complete at the end of December, 2007. The renovation in Whiting is scheduled to begin late Spring, 2008.
The budget process is starting. The President wants to present to the WU Board of Regents at its December meeting.

Corporate Volunteer:

Lori Rognlie announced there is still time to donate toiletries. She would like to have two more boxes by December 4. The United Way is looking for volunteers for the Christmas Bureau. She also distributed a flyer from the United Way inviting people to be a Citizen Review Panelist.

Benefits:

Val reported the natural disaster leave issue which was thought to be closed was revisited and reopened. A proposal is now being developed that it would fall under shared leave.
Old Business

Soap and paper towel dispensers are scheduled to be installed in all buildings. These will be installed as soon as possible however other projects will take priority. A member asked if anything could be done about the bathroom on the first floor of Morgan. It smells terrible. It was suggested they call Shirley in Facilities and she will look into it.

John spoke to Joel regarding “Date Nights” at the SWRC. Joel said that they have had several events like this (Employee Appreciation Day, National Fitness Day, etc). He will explore it further if we want. Senior Administration is considering opening membership to spouses of WU employees.

Lori Spurgeon drafted a letter to be sent to neighborhood organizations regarding the dog waste left on campus. John presented it to the President and Tom Ellis. They have approved it to be distributed. It was also suggested to place a nice reminder in the Review.

The issue concerning years of service if a person leaves and then returns to WU was discussed with Human Resources. Since this affects only a small number of people, it was decided that the previous years of service would not be included when a person returns to WU for employment.

The issue of reimbursement for personal leave and not sick leave is closed. Sick leave is not a budgeted item

New Business

John distributed information on Building an Effective Technology Plan. Mike Gunter asked for us to review it and send comments/questions to him. A committee has been formed to discuss WU’s technology needs. A question was asked if the staff is represented on this committee. Senior Administrators are not the same as staff members. Other items of concern regarding technology are: MyWashburn not user friendly and it constantly shutting down, the broadband width, and why things run so slow.

A staff member asked if the employee tuition discount can be reviewed since tuition has increased again. Could employees receive two free classes or could the same discount be given to employees as to the dependents of employees.

Announcements

The first Mabee Library Dean candidate will be interviewing on campus. Dalene Hawthorne will make a presentation on Thursday, 11/15 at 1:30pm in the Kansas Room. The second candidate, Deborah Ludwig, will arrive interview on campus on Tuesday, 11/27 and will make a presentation at 1:30pm in the Shawnee Room that same day.

John has created a shared folder for staff council members on the S drive.
The next meeting will be Wednesday, 12/12 at 3:00pm in MO204.

Meeting adjourned.