Staff Council Minutes
Minutes of December 10, 1997, Meeting

PRESENT

Jerry Farley, Tom Ellis, Deb Anderson, Cindy Barry, Deborah Birney, Donna Catron, Duke Divine, Rugena Hall, Gil Herrera, Sheri McDowell, Marj Murray, Carla Rasch, John Shearer, Karen Simpson, Bob Stoller, Ginger Webber, Donna Winslow, Elizabeth Wunder

President Farley welcomed the committee members, thanking them for their interest and their time. He suggested that the committee consider themselves a vehicle for broad-based communication across the entire campus, with the ability to provide feedback to the President on a variety of campus-related topics. The committee should determine whether or not such a representation is appropriate for WU, what the purpose of the committee will be, how it will be structured, and the governance of the group.

Following Dr. Farley's departure, discussion ensued regarding a number of topics:

- the issue of possible university closure the week between Christmas and New Years
- established university committees which this committee should avoid duplicating
- the importance of boosting staff morale, of staff development opportunities, and of finding "healthy ways in which to inform the populace" to improve communication
- the possibility of obtaining models of similar committees from other schools
- avoid getting bogged down with details regarding structure of the committee, but rather make an early announcement about its formation and solicit feedback from colleagues regarding issues they would like to see brought forth, etc.
- find an identity for the committee, as well as a stated purpose, giving colleagues confidence in the ability of the committee to represent them well
- contact the following schools for possible models of similar committees: ESU, Baker, OU, OSU, KU, KSU, Wichita State, University of Nebraska at Omaha, UMKC, Fort Hays; distribute to committee prior to next meeting if possible

It was unanimously agreed that Bob Stoller will serve, at least temporarily, as Chair of the committee; Karen Simpson offered to serve temporarily as secretary. Bob will create an email alias for communication among committee members.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 3:00 pm, MO 204. Members should give thought to a mission statement for the committee, possible organizational structure, and the Christmas-New Years closure issue.

Submitted by Karen Simpson, HPEES