Staff Council Minutes
December 17, 1997

PRESENT

Deb Anderson, Cindy Barry, Deborah Birney, Donna Catron, Duke Divine, Rugena Hall, Marj Murray, Carla Rasch, Karen Simpson, Bob Stoller, Ginger Webber, Donna Winslow. Present for part of meeting: Tom Ellis

The minutes from the December 10 meeting were unanimously approved.

Primary discussion centered around the structure, function, and composition of the committee, as well as whether this is a steering committee, which will ultimately be replaced by the first actual staff council, or whether this group is actually the first staff council. Members of the committee felt strongly that, after establishing the guidelines for the group, they wish to serve for an extended period of time as functioning members of the actual staff council. The general agreement was that the current members should serve for a minimum of six months, and preferably for a year. The method by which current members will be replaced has yet to be determined. Bob Stoller will visit with Dr. Farley to determine whether or not there is a preference for elections or appointments.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The group agreed on the term "staff council" as the committee's title, and agreed to use the Purpose/Function statement from the University of Missouri at Kansas City as a model for the Washburn council. Bob Stoller will compose a Purpose/Function statement, following the UMKC example, and distribute it via email for reactions from the council members.
- Regarding the creation of bylaws and/or a constitution for the group: It was agreed that these documents would establish the membership of the group, the purpose, and the term of service as main considerations. However, it was generally agreed that this issue will probably evolve more naturally as the council continues to meet and function as a group.
- Council members requested that an announcement be made from the President's office regarding the formation of the committee, etc., asap.
- Representation and election: Deborah Birney reported that Washburn has 236 wage and hour employees and 142 administrative employees. These figures do not count the collective bargaining unit. Everyone agreed that it is important to have appropriate representation from both the wage and hour and the administrative groups on the council. The current council could serve as a model for the composition of the group for future elected/appointed staff councils. Tom Ellis stated that the current body will articulate how the group will continue (regarding representation), and that the current group will need to determine how to replace ourselves. It was reiterated that organization of the group will take some time.
- Discussion regarding the issue of closing the university between Christmas and New Year’s revealed two points of view: 1) those classified employees who feel that the only way that they can legitimately take off an entire week is to have the university officially closed; and 2) those
who prefer to make their own decision regarding whether or not they work during that week. The issue of areas considered "essential" was also raised, meaning that it would be extremely difficult for areas such as payroll, physical plant, food service, registrar's office, acc, etc., to be closed. The general feeling of the council members is that it will need to be an "all or none" closing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bob Stoller requested that everyone begin creating a list of concerns expressed by colleagues. He would like input from any employee who is not a faculty member.
- Please remember the reception for Gene Mosiman: January 30, 3-5 pm, Union lobby.
- HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!