

Staff Council Minutes

December 6, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Mary Beth Bero at 3:05 p.m. It began with a reception for all outgoing reps and alternates as well as newly elected reps and alternates. Mary Beth thanked the outgoing members and welcomed the new members to Staff Council. She also thanked President Farley for coming to speak to our group.

President Farley views Staff Council as an opportunity for that have happened in the past few years -- the Living Learning Center, Admission Criteria, the Leadership Program -- all of which have come about because of communication among various groups on the campus. He also talked about the new ITS department and its program to update the computer software on campus. We need to move toward the future in order to better serve our students and staff. The question was posed as to why no one from Staff Council was appointed to the Parking Committee. This is a committee that President Farley appointed at random to represent all the interests of the campus and he charged them to collectively learn about parking and make recommendations to the Vice President for Administration as to possible solutions to the perceived parking problems. Salaries are on the agenda for the Dec. and Jan. Board of Regents meeting. So far nothing has been decided and he said the Regents schools are proposing a 2.5% raise for classified staff and a 6% raise for faculty. The Board is intent on maintaining the merit salary program and is open to suggestions for determining merit. Fiscally, WU is in good shape because of the sales tax income. He also told us the Board is presently working on abolishing the Kansas tax on retirement income.

The minutes of the Nov. 1 meeting were approved with a few minor corrections and they will be posted to the Web.

Karla Whiteside of Payroll was unable to attend the meeting. Bob Stoller suggested we let the new payroll system that is in place operate for a few months and then revisit the direct deposit slip issue. The payroll is being outsourced until our new data system is in place. Bob Stoller spoke about the new program for financial and student information. We are in beginning phase of replacing this system which has been in place since the 70's and 80's and is definitely outdated. The President has appointed a steering committee to guide this entire process and this committee is composed of the Vice Presidents, Dr. Bainum, Harold Holden, Bob Boncella, Jerry Clevenger and possibly a couple other members. A project management team with Dr. Bainum as the Project Chair is being formed with all functional areas of campus being represented on this committee. They will meet to select a "Request for Proposal" to be sent to all interested vendors. The entire way we do business will be evaluated and changed. This will happen over a 2-year period. A Change Management Team will also be selected with the charge of communicating to the entire campus all the activities connected with this enormous undertaking. Staff Council will be represented on this committee. Everyone on campus will be asked to complete a questionnaire detailing how we use the computer on a daily, weekly, and semester basis. It is very important for everyone to complete this questionnaire so we can truly evaluate how the campus uses the computer and what is the best way to update the systems so the most people will benefit from the

changes. Bob stated that there may be changes in job descriptions due to the new systems but there will be no loss of jobs. Consultants will be brought in to help maintain the present systems and make sure we can use these systems until the new ones are in place. Bob asked for volunteers to serve on the Change Management Team and Sue Peek volunteered to be on this committee from Staff Council.

Rich Robbins reported on the results of the survey on tiered insurance proposals. They received a very low response so 3 open forums will be scheduled in late January and early February with the hope of getting more campus-wide input on this issue. The shared sick leave policy is being edited by the President at this time with the length of time being reduced from 6 months to 3 months. This change is being made because of the projected costs involved. This policy will then go to the Board of Regents during the Spring semester. If adopted, it will go into effect for 3 years and after that date may be amended if this is feasible.

Rich Robbins also reported on the Employee Recognition Committee which will meet on Dec. 12. We are still in charge of determining whether there will be 1 award with additional door prizes or 2 awards. He needs another member to serve on this committee. LaJean Rinker volunteered to serve.

Betty Fischer handed out her report from the Recycling Committee. All other committee reports and agenda items were deferred until the January meeting because of the time. We adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LaJean Rinker, Secretary