

Staff Council Minutes

December 14, 2010

Call to order at 2:36pm

I. The meeting was called to order by Lynn Bailey, Chair at 2:36 p.m.

Members Present: Daniel Schmidt, Jennifer Bixel, Marsha Carrasco Cooper, Melissa Lewis, Mary Kay Thornburg, Lou Olsen, Donna Clark, Jackie Askren, Donna Lacey, Lynn Bailey, Brenda White, Cathy Latham.

Members were asked to introduce themselves (name, department).

II. Reports

A. From the President

Lynn Bailey reported on the following information from the University President, Dr. Farley.

It is too soon to project on budget issues. We do not yet have enough information and numbers to make any decisions. September tax information is most current information.

Looking into the rationale for doing improvements on the campuses. Looking at projects that may happen in the future. Projects being considered involve the Law School, "one-stop shop" in Morgan Hall, and Mabee Library. The Morgan Hall project is in the process of getting an architect. The Law School is looking to see if there is enough interest in a project before an architect and funding are sought. The upcoming 150 birthday is the impetus for these projects to see what we can do in the future. This is all currently just a wish list of needed projects. Time will tell whether funding will be available from donations, etc.

B. Benefits Committee

Donna Lacey reported on behalf of the Benefits Committee which met on December 3, 2010. She shared a statement from the University Legal Counsel Office of Lisa Jones: "Currently, it appears impermissible for WU to offer domestic partnership benefits." This is based on the Kansas constitutional amendment K.S.A. Const. Art. 15 & 16 (b) regarding rights and incidents of marriage and what constitutes marriage. "It seems the only way that domestic partnership benefits will be available for state employees is if the amendment is declared unconstitutional or altered in some way."

The committee is looking at long term care insurance. The committee has approved the start of the process of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project.

C. Years of Service Awards

The Years of Service Awards proposal has been presented to Dr. Farley and has been approved. Notice will be sent to Human Resources so service recognitions can be made

accordingly.

"A member asked how 5 years was chosen as the standard for the break in service." Lynn Bailey explained the process was chosen as the standard to match the previous standard already in place for accrued leave.

III. Discussion Items

A. Missing Meeting Minutes

A question has been brought up regarding missing minutes of November and December of 2009 and January through September 2010.

Lynn Bailey asked for three volunteers to serve on a committee to get the missing minutes. A lot of research needs to be done to make sure accurate minutes are found. Changes to minutes appear to not have been made and were never made official. At this point we don't have accurate minutes to share. As those minutes were never posted online, they are missing unless past members have copies of minutes that the past Staff Council Chair sent out. Ideally, we will have something found by February 2011.

Jennifer Bixel, Donna Lacey, and Brenda White volunteered to serve on this committee. Lynn will provide a list of past members to help with this research. It was recommended that Lisa Heigert be contacted as she is a former member of Staff Council who might have some information.

B. Lynn Bailey confirmed that all members:

1. Received the list of people that were a part of their group.
2. Knew how to make an email group.
3. Understood the difference between the draft minutes and final minutes.

He also reminded the group to please only send the link to the posted approved minutes instead of the actual minutes. We want everyone to get in the habit of looking at the web site with the posted minutes. Let Lynn know if you have any questions.

IV. New Business

None

V. Announcements

Brenda White announced that the internet pipe that was increased for our campus is increasing again at no additional cost to Washburn. The increase will be to 10 gigs. This will happen on Christmas Day.

Lynn Bailey announced that the Technology and Budget committees have met and are working on projects. More information will be available after the new year.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

