



Approved Minutes
September 30, 2008

Present:, Teresa Schmitt, Brian Brown, Angie Goebel, Michelle Herrmann, Charlene Kaufman, Mary Killian, Frank Nagy, Dave O'Grady, Sheree Seib, Kim Shelton, Jacki Spainhour, Cynthia York, Julie Bordelon, Pam Moore, Jeri Broshears, Becky Ball, Terry Martin, Catherine Vaughan, Donna Evinger

CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Hermann called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Chris is in Chicago with her new grandchild.

Approval of minutes from August 26, 2008, motion by Becky Ball, seconded by Dave O'Grady.

Dave O'Grady reported for Economic Benefits Committee. He will be working with Kevin Valadares in the Faculty Senate to consolidate our concerns, in regards to long term health insurance, an increase from 50% to 75%, or 100% tuition reimbursement for dependants. There is a group of Indiana colleges who offer reduced rate tuition to employees dependants, is it a possibility for USI to join this group? Ongoing research on other companies' wages has hit a roadblock. Donna Evinger to try to help out.

Pam Moore reported for Employee Relations: Food drive ends today, will pick up boxes and posters this week. Full report next meeting.

Nominating committee report by Angie Goebel: Ongoing.

Web Committee report by Sheree Seib: Archie's Closet site on. Last years minutes being uploaded.

Old Business - Employee concern regarding compensation in lieu of insurance. Donna to investigate Vectren and EVSC policy. Charlene to talk to employee to assure the issue is being addressed.

Need 9 volunteers per shift for tailgate party Nov 1 at Robert's Stadium.

Sodas to be given to Wellness Fair.



Student Health Center in HP has a room of nursing mothers to use - call first.

New Business - Community Service committee report by Julie Bordelon: In regard to offering a discount or waiver for textbooks from the bookstore – since textbooks are considered “specialty” books (not printed for general public use), controlled by the publishers who make certain editions available, and the moneys collected for new versions are the moneys paid to the publishers – discounts are not available to any purchaser. As a waiver, Human Resources would need to purchase the books and the employee would receive the books as an income. The cost would be added to the employee’s gross pay and they would need to pay taxes on the amount. The book discount/waiver in result does not prove to be a good benefit. I contacted Jeanne Devine in the Foundations Office, and setting up a scholarship for books or awards is possible. A specific scholarship would need to be named, have set criteria (who is eligible, applications with set criteria explaining eligibility, etc.), who will monitor funds and set criteria, how it will be funded, how long funds will be held, and how the funds will be dispersed. The money for the scholarship is collected in the Foundation Office, and when the fund is to be dispersed, they will write a check to the organization for them to distribute to recipients. OR – since we have an operating fund - we can collect money and dispense it in any way we choose. The account is money in and same amount out, so Staff Council is in control – but the monies given are not tax deductible. The only time donations are tax deductible, are if the checks are for a specific scholarship and placed through the Foundation. Staff Council can decide if we wish to give to a student, staff or community effort.

The discussion at the Staff Council meeting was this new endeavor would generate a lot of work, would we need to add more members which is already difficult, and can we expect people to give enough money to make this worthwhile. Also how to dispense funds fairly could cause bad feelings among support staff, and we would like to keep Staff Council’s focus on benefiting USI’s support staff members. Brian Brown motioned to table the discussion until next meeting and Dave O’Grady seconded.

Kim Shelton asked for volunteers to take tickets at the basketball games.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. motion by Julie Bordelon, seconded by Frank Nagy.