



Approved Minutes
October 29, 2007

Present: Becky Ball, Vicki Bierley, Jeri Broshears, Brian Brown, Christine Crews, Samoa Hempfling, Mary Killian, Terry Martin, Tony Morgan, Frank Nagy, Dave O'Grady, Lyndsee Priest, Virginia Thomas, and Angela Torres

Guest: Donna Evinger

CALL TO ORDER

Angela Torres called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Angela welcomed the new Staff Council members: Mary Killian, Lyndsee Priest, and Kitty Wusstig.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 24, 2007 Staff Council minutes as amended was made by Becky Ball and seconded by Christine Crews.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Benefits

The committee continues to collect information from area businesses in regard to average support staff wages/benefits along with shift differential policies. Questions were raised about the 15 semester hour limit per year policy for benefit eligible support staff and the division of hours per semester allowed. The compression study is on hold until the minimum wage increase is complete. Lyndsee Priest will serve on the economic benefits committee.

Contact was made with student government to discuss the need for a campus police force. Student government has been researching this idea and an article was recently published in *The Shield*. Staff Council will invite Vice President for Business Affairs, Mark Rozewski, to our next meeting, or to a special called meeting, to hear concerns about having a non-armed security force and the need for an armed police force on campus. USI is the only public university in Indiana without an armed security/police force. Issues requiring an armed police force seem to be greater at night. Dave O'Grady will also contact Faculty Senate and find out what faculty discussion has been regarding this issue. Discussion continued regarding consequences for inappropriate behaviors requiring the response of the current security officers or the county sheriff department.

Employee Relations

The committee met October 15 and made posters for the food drive for Archibald's Closet to be held in November. Suggestions were made at the meeting to help define distribution of items needed and possibly making recipe cards to distribute along with food to give options for making quick meals out of food items received. Posters will be put up in designated buildings through November and then the Giving Trees will be put up in late November or early December. The committee plans to meet the second Monday of December at 2:00 p.m. Mary Killian will serve on the employee relations committee.

Nominating Committee

The new members have been introduced and the selection process went well to replace the members that resigned.

Web Committee

Suggestions have been made to Rose Scruggs about possible changes for the web site.

Old Business

Angela met with Barry Schonberger regarding Archibald's Food Closet. Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center own the closet and Jeannie Kuebler is the contact person. Drop-ins are welcome and Barry or Mary Alice in Student Affairs will take people to the closet. Paper products go quickly and currently there is an increase of need and not much coming into the closet. Items needed include anything that doesn't have to be cooked. Can openers are also helpful items that students may need. A larger space for the closet has been requested and there is a possibility that after the old library space is renovated, space may become available in the lower level of the University Center to expand the closet. Currently when food drives are held, overflow items are temporarily stored in some of the student organization offices. The largest suppliers for the closet are the Staff Council Fall Food Drive and the Midnight Breakfast. Outside groups also donate at times throughout the year. Rules and regulations posted on the back of the closet door are outdated. Recognition is used by those taking students to the closet but records are not kept as to items taken and names of those using the closet.

Sondra Reed is a master gardener and gave Angela ideas about the adopt-a-spot location near the Forum Building. Bea Purcell has agreed to help with the existing flowers. Plans for next year will be discussed in the spring.

New Business

The bylaws need to be updated to clarify how new individuals are chosen or added outside of the yearly election of members. Lisa Staples, Rene' Koressel, and Terry Martin will serve on the Bylaw Committee. Virginia Thomas is the alternate member.

Discussion/Announcements.

Resignations: Carol Evans and Kristen Lewis

Habitat Homes: Samoa handed out information about the New Haven Subdivision being developed off South Green River Road. She shared an overview of the project. No-interest loans are available and the family pays mortgage, taxes, and insurance over a 25 year period. Each person goes through employment history, credit checks, and sweat equity (required 300 hours of work on others' homes). Applicant must complete

250 hours before they can select a style for their own home. Applicant must also attend ten home ownership classes. A total of 27 homes were set up this year with a total of 55 homes to be built in the subdivision. There are currently six styles of three, four, and five bedroom homes available to choose from. This project began as a result of the November 2005 tornado but is not limited to those victims. Any group can volunteer to help with construction but volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to work on site.

Wish Upon A Star: After meeting with someone involved with this organization, Brian found out that USI would need to develop our own group and promote fundraisers for sponsoring someone. It was suggested that Lisa Schaefer or Penny White might be able to give us rules and regulations for starting a group such as this on campus.

Kim Schauss: A thank you note was received from Kim and read by Angela thanking the council for recognizing her with the Support Staff Recognition Award at the Annual Support Staff Luncheon in August.

Staff Council Round Table: Indiana State University has put together a group to host other area college councils on November 7 in Terre Haute. The meeting will be limited to the Executive Committee members.

Employee recognition key chain: Key chains are being distributed to those not attending the luncheon in August. All support staff members should receive one of the key chains provided by Advancement with the new Staff Council logo.

The next meeting will be November 26 in UC 206.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Becky Ball and seconded by Virginia Thomas.