



Approved Minutes
December 17, 2007

Present: Becky Ball, Vicki Bierley, Jeri Broshears, Christine Crews, Samoa Hempfling, Mary Killian, Renee' Koressel, Terry Martin, Pam Moore, Frank Nagy, Dave O'Grady, Lyndsee Priest, Sheree Seib, Lisa Staples, Virginia Thomas, and Angela Torres

Guest: Donna Evinger

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 29, 2007 Staff Council minutes as amended was made by Sheree Seib and seconded by Becky Ball.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Benefits

The committee met in December and will propose the following in the upcoming budget hearings. Proposal 1 is for a pay increase of 4% and 1% for merit. Proposal 2 is for a Tobacco Free Campus. Proposal 3 is for a short term disability policy. Shift differential will be listed stating further research will be compiled. A police force will not be proposed this year; further research will be conducted including a student survey with a proposal possible in 2009. A question was received by the committee regarding why TIAA-CREF is not offered to support staff. The question was forwarded to Human Resources and the response received states that the retirement offered by USI to support staff is equal and/or better than similar universities.

Questions concerning a tobacco free campus came up at the Council Round Table in Terre Haute, attended by Angela Torres and Dave O'Grady, and studies show there has been no decrease in enrollment on campuses where they have gone smoke free. USI has a smoking committee that has not met recently but can be convened when necessary.

Employee Relations

The Giving Tree was a success this year with thirteen applications received, two of which were rejected because they were submitted very late. There were seven tree locations where ornaments were available for pickup to purchase items requested by the families. Nine International students staying on campus during the holiday were given baskets of food items collected on the Giving Tree. The committee will meet in January to review to Giving Tree process and set plans for next year in place with a timeline. Suggestions for letting students and employees know that there is a program to assist families (not extended families) in need.

Nominating Committee No report

Web Committee No report

New Business

- Concerns have been expressed about when parking lots are blocked for special events near the University Center. Handicap parking near the University Center and Library were blocked off for a public forum meeting with the legislators. Do we meet ADA requirements when these areas are blocked? Human Resources hired an ADA Coordinator to assist with all campus issues and this issue should be referred to him.
- Comp time issues were discussed. Included in the discussion were how long comp time can be accumulated, how much time can be accumulated, and why comp time can not be carried over at fiscal year end. The financial liability to the university (requiring a pre-funded item in the new year) is the reason comp time is not carried over at year end.
- Questions about online payroll were raised and Donna shared that online payroll is not planned for the near future but will be pursued in the future.

Discussion/Announcements.

Resignation Kitty Wusstig has resigned since she will be moving and leaving the university in late January.

Membership Staff Council now has 18 members. If someone is interested in serving, please let Becky Ball know. Staff Council requires a commitment and things don't always happen fast. The council must be persistent and keep presenting things that are important for support staff. Suggestions were made to look at two to three year terms for officers, one year on council and two years as officer with elections every other year. Discussion continued with how Staff Council originally started and what the current needs are within the Council.

Memoriams The following memoriams were read by Angela: Alice Mayer, Part-time Call-in Clerk in the USI Library passed away on November 25, 2007. Rosemary (Niedermeier) Oberhausen, Retired Senior Secretary in the Pott College of Science and Engineering pass away on November 29, 2007.

Director of Security Two finalist pending, decision forth coming.

Employee Picnic Date The date has not been selected yet, but should be decided before the next meeting.

The next meeting will be January 28 in UC 206 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 was made by Becky Ball and seconded by Christine Crews.