



Approved Minutes
January 30, 2007

Present: Karen Anderson, Jeri Broshears, Christine Crews, Gail Cummings, Deanna Engler, Yvonne Floyd, Chris Jines, René Koressel, Linda Lefler, Frank Nagy, David O'Grady, Bea Purcell, Virginia Thomas, Angela Torres,

Guest: Donna Evinger

Call to Order

Chris Jines called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

Approval of Minutes

Dave approved and Virginia seconded the minutes of November 28, 2006 as amended.

Committee Reports

Economic Benefits

The committee met last Tuesday and Dave went over the Budget Proposal. Dave said that other Universities get PERF only. Since other Universities do not receive retirement benefits, we may not want to push the issue. Chris said that since Banner has been implemented, four support staff have retired and none had up to the 45 sick days remaining. We are going to take out the proposal for the employee picnic because it will be presented in the HR budget request.

The Staff Council Budget Presentation will be Friday, February 16th, 9:00 – 9:20am in UC 201/202. Chris is to send the PowerPoint of the presentation to Donna tomorrow.

The council took a vote on whether to leave the proposal at 60 days for reimbursement, or drop the issue in order to do more research? This would leave the retirement at the current 45 days, where 90 days are needed in order to get retirement benefits. The staff voted unanimously to take out the 60 days for retirement for this year's budget proposal.

It was noted that sick time is not a paid benefit to employees. It is provided to employees at a cost to the University.

The Economic Benefits Committee needs to jump in and start doing research for the budget requests for next year. Someone will need to ask the College of Business, possibly Bill Henderson, to see if anyone can help with researching the numbers.

Employee Relations

Yvonne discussed the outcome of the Giving Tree. Sara was in charge of it. With the help of the USI community, Staff Council was able to assist 9 families with 30 children and their parents. Twelve international students were also assisted with gift baskets (laundry baskets with food and Schnuck's gift cards). The leftover items from the gift baskets were given to Archibald Food Closet. Ten phone cards were given to Julie Bordelon in the International office to give to international students that will remain here on campus over winter break. Dave was given a thank you note from one of the families who received gifts from the Giving Tree. The person was really touched by the gifts and the kids had a great time.

Family Time with the Eagles took place December 17th. Yvonne e-mailed the USI faculty and staff on Monday December 11th and passed out tickets starting on Thursday December 16th. There was an article in University Notes. We had 200 tickets, 178 tickets were distributed. Virginia helped at the table for the door prizes. For the women's game, Rick Stein gave a T-shirt and Jon Mark Hall gave a Women's Walk T-shirt for prizes. The winners were Brooklyn Masterson and Kelsey McManus. For the men's game, Rick Herdes gave a Men's Basketball T-shirt and a small autographed basketball. The winners were Jacob Slarkin and Jeff Syler.

Yvonne recommends continuing to offer the tickets and, if possible, offer tickets for other sports.

Student Appreciation Day is the week of Valentine's Day each year. This event should be advertised in University Notes, through e-mail, and on the announcements on the TVs around campus.

The Employee Relations Committee is working on the staff picnic.

Nominating

The committee had a meeting January 24th, where Linda showed the members how nominations were done last year with e-mails. They reviewed the nomination form to see if anything needed to be changed. The committee will start nominations in February. There are 10 spots on the council that will need to be filled.

Old Business

Staff Council Logo

Dave is to send the Staff Council logos to Donna.

Employee Recognition Award

The council discussed issues with the Employee Recognition Award. Dave suggested announcing the award winner at the staff picnic in the summer. Donna suggested limiting the time when nominations would be accepted. Donna and Chris are to get together to discuss further issues with the award. If we announce the winner at a luncheon, Dave suggested that the top five nominees are invited to the Service Award Luncheon and then we recognize the winner.

New Business

Budget Hearing Committee

Chris, Donna, Dave, and Angela will get together to review the budget presentation. Chris will present the budget on Friday 2/16 at 9 AM in UC 201-202.

Deanna attended the Safety Committee Meeting, and they talked about different issues regarding the speed bumps. Security moved the team bus parking to the tennis court area. They are not supposed to block the road. We are to report the traffic to security if the buses are blocking the road.

Dave brought up the fact that people are smoking right in front of the library. He asked if we could put an urn where the two sidewalks meet and put a sign up that says "No Smoking Beyond This Point." Donna will propose the sign to the Physical Plant. Dave should discuss with Don Fleming the possibility of placing the urn where the two sidewalks meet. It would be nice if Scheduling advised people of our smoking policy when they reserve a room. It was suggested that the smoking policy be announced at every opportunity, including faculty and staff meetings, and student orientations.

The question was raised for why we do not have police at this campus. The security officers do not have the authority to enforce anything. Discussion followed with mention of the costs that would be involved to hire police officers.

Yvonne brought up the fact that there is a lot of trash along the side of Schutte Road, and it looks bad. She suggested that the student groups could take it on as a project to keep the roadway clean. This could be used to show their pride for USI. Jeri will check with Carmen Stoen and Student Development about the idea.

Discussion/Announcements

Ideas for July Retreat

Chris asked everyone to think about who we want to have come and talk at the July retreat. Some ideas included inviting someone to talk about the Quad, or what is to be done with the Old Library. Chris would like to have something different and fun at the meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 27, 1:30 PM in UC 214.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:28pm was made by Karen and seconded by Dave.