



Approved Minutes  
August 18, 2006

Present: Karen Anderson, Jeri Broshears, Gail Cummings, Deanna Engler, Chris Jines, René Koressel, Linda Lefler, Tony Morgan, Frank Nagy, David O'Grady, Sara Rhoades, Lisa Staples, Virginia Thomas, Angela Torres, Julie Weinzapfel

Guest: Donna Evinger

Call to Order

Chris Jines called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. She welcomed everyone and expressed that she would like everyone to feel that they can come and enjoy the meetings. Chris plans to start and end the meetings on time. If additional time is needed for certain issues, we can table the issue for the next meeting.

Chris announced that Lois Stevens has to resign from Staff Council. Tony Morgan had been approached to serve as a replacement. The council voted and approved keeping the current number of members.

Approval of Minutes

Previously approved minutes can be found on the Staff Council website. From now on, approved minutes will be sent out as an e-mail attachment. Please remember to keep the approved minutes in your binder.

Dave approved and Virginia seconded the minutes of July 26, 2006 as amended.

Committee Reports

Economic Benefits

There is nothing to report at this time. Meetings are to be scheduled soon.

Employee Relations

Sara handed out minutes from the committee's meeting. This year Special Events has a committee that will handle the Tailgate party. They asked to use members of Staff Council as volunteers for the event. The Giving Tree will start in October. The potential date for Family Day is Sunday, December 17. There is a women's game at 1 PM and a men's game on the same day with the time to be announced. Chris asked if any prizes are to be given out. Sara is to check and report back.

### Nominating

There is nothing to report at this time.

### Old Business

Dave announced that the domestic partner information has been forwarded to Don Crankshaw to review on a University-wide scale. Every public school in Indiana except USI recognizes domestic partners. Donna suggested that the Economic Benefits Committee discuss this issue and determine where it would rank as a priority for the council.

Rene brought up that the support staff has a different retirement plan than administrative personnel. Dave said that this issue has been presented at the budget requests for the last two years. We asked for a severance style package based on the number of years an employee has served. We have not yet heard what has or has not been approved.

Donna noted that Cindy Brinker would like to give us feedback on our budget requests. Donna will follow-up with Cindy since she has not given the council any information yet.

Our first proposal is always for pay raises and the second is for a 3% increase for the staff picnic. We will decide on two or three additional proposals for the council to vote on for our final presentation.

### New Business

Linda Lefler read a note to the council thanking Lisa, Dave, Rene, Julie, and Angela for helping at the Staff Luncheon.

Chris received a resignation letter from Lois. Lois will be glad to help the council as she is able.

We need a Staff Council photographer who will update our pictures on the out-board. Rene volunteered to take the photos with her digital camera. Karen has a photo printer and volunteered to print the photos.

Chris is to contact Rose Scruggs to have the Staff Council website updated so that it includes information for the Giving Tree and the Employee Bible Study.

Chris asked that the Economic Benefits Committee consider researching the numbers and the types of medical claims that we have had in order to determine if it would be feasible to ask for lower premiums or increased coverage. As a reminder, there is a Wellness Program available that offers an hour of exercise a week as paid time as a benefit for employees.

Sara raised discussion about the current number of credit hours that are offered to staff and their spouse and/or dependents. She asked if it would be possible to

request 9 credit hours each semester instead of limiting employees to 6 credit hours. She also pointed out that a spouse or dependent receives half off any number of credit hours they take a semester. If one has a spouse or dependent taking advantage of the opportunity, then the employee receives greater benefits than a single employee. Dave did research the amount of education reimbursement that USI offers, and the employees here do receive better benefits than other schools.

Karen asked about working out a discount with the bookstore. Apparently Mike Goelzhauser said that they could not provide a discount or they would lose money.

#### Discussion/Announcements

There are clubs around campus who sell discount cards to the community. Some of the cards have up to a 20% discount on items in the USI bookstore, excluding non-sale items and textbooks.

The majority of the council voted to change the meeting times to the last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm. After scheduling the meeting space, Angela will send an e-mail with the dates for the rest of the year. Angela will also send out a reminder before each meeting.

The Wellness Fair will be the first Wednesday in October. Linda will e-mail a request asking for volunteers.

#### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM was made by Virginia and seconded by Dave.