



Staff Council Meeting
Minutes
June 27, 2013

Members Present: Terri Alvey, Lesley Attebury, Mary Ann Bernard, Jeri Broshears, Bobbie Brown, Miekka Cox, Garry Culver, Brandan Garrison, Stephanie Higgins, Kim Jost, Terry Martin, Amanda Mitchell, Betsy Mullins, Michelle Simmons, Jacki Spainhour, Kim Sullivan, Debbie Whiteside

Members Absent: Gyneth Fehribach, LaVerne Jones, Theresa Ohning

New Members Present: Gloria Butz, Kathi Goen, Sarah Howard, Cindi Kueber, Pam Moore, Juanita Musich, Britney Orth, Lisa Wulff (Alternate)

Guests Present: President Linda Bennett, Donna Evinger

Mary Ann Bernard had everyone introduce themselves then introduced Dr. Linda Bennett as our guest speaker.

Dr. Bennett discussed the budget. She stated that USI was one of two institutions to receive funding for all performance funding formulas that applied to the institution. USI received \$2 Million for the next two years for base operations through a line item. She also mentioned that tuition is increasing by 4.2%-4.4% to aid in the needed revenue for operations. Dr. Bennett talked of how USI is growing and how the two new programs that are beginning this Fall will help to draw new students into the University. Also to help with growth and retention, USI will be partnering with Noel-Levitz Consulting to help market the University. The University has seen a dip in enrollment for the Summer and Fall of 2013. Costs for the consultation have been provided through the USI Bookstore. USI is still the most affordable university in Indiana even after the tuition increases. Dr. Bennett stated that the new theater building is on schedule and the operating costs for that building will be in the next budget phase.

Question and Answer:

Garry Culver asked what contributed to the dip in enrollment. Dr. Bennett noted the main contributing factors to be competition, the decline in young men applying, and prospective students being told that not everyone needs to go to college.

Nita Musich asked what the difference in financial aid was between the competing colleges. Dr. Bennett stated that scholarships and stacking scholarships was a major difference.

Gloria Butz asked about the relation of cap courses and retention. Dr. Bennett stated that 50% or more of the students that took dual credit cap courses finish their degree within four years. She sees the cap courses as a success. She noted that USI's dual credit program is accredited.

Kim Jost asked about towns along the I64 corridor and tuition. Dr. Bennett stated that there is a residential grant for some counties in Illinois. USI is still working with the Kentucky government to try to receive reciprocity.

Jacki Spainhour asked about a football team. Dr. Bennett stated that that is an expensive program to implement and is cost prohibitive.

Donna Evinger presented certificates to the members that are leaving staff council.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from the May 30, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Miekka Cox moved that the minutes be approved with changes and Amanda Mitchell seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Employee Relations: Terri Alvey stated that we worked on the end of year report. She will post it on the Staff Council website. The report discusses the contest for Archie's Closet, the Giving Tree, the student worker appreciation week, and the employee picnic.

Economic Benefits: Kim Sullivan noted that they met a Red Mango for an end of year treat. Betsy Mullins had to move the meeting about employees placing smaller amounts on their Eagle Access card to use with Sodexo. Also noted was that employees receive a 20% discount on apparel and other items at the USI bookstore. Also, employees receive a 10% discount on textbooks.

Nominating: Jacki Spainhour noted that the nomination process was a success this year. Of those nominated, 18 were willing to run.

Old Business: The July 24th retreat will be in O'Bannon Hall. Betsy will post signs directing all to the correct room. Terry Martin is working on lunch. The plan is to use Spuds-n-Stuff. Everyone was asked to bring snacks and drinks.

The new members were asked to leave and the current members voted on the Employee Recognition Award. There was discussion about updating the process.

Concerns regarding smoking around the buildings and parking lots were discussed.

The next meeting will be the retreat on July 24, 2013.

There being no further business, Terry Martin moved to adjourn and Betsy Mullins seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Simmons
Secretary