

Support Staff Council Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Adams, Karen Aue, Toni Bolinger, Patti Bolton, Debbie Brothers, Lauraly Dubois, Tom Everett, Edy Fitch, Kelly Hall, Nancy Hall, Karen Harris, Debbie Kelley, Ellen Knoblett, Leslie Krockenberger, David Lofton, Tracy McDaniel, James McKittrick, Gary Neese, Theresa Ortega, Margaret Pearman, Rebecca Stinnett, Roxanne Torrence, Wilma Turetzky, Patsy Weltich, and Debbie Woolard

ABSENT EXCUSED: Jennifer Brewer

EX-OFFICIO: Wil Downs

GUESTS: Dennis Vetovec, alternate representative

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Torrence called the meeting to order and mentioned that Dr. Sheets couldn't attend the meeting but did ask that everyone sign a card for him in appreciation of his working with the council this past year.

Rebecca Stinnett then gave a presentation on the Council on Diversity of which she and Theresa Ortega are members. She told us there is a 19 member committee comprised of faculty, professionals, staff, and the Terre Haute community and shared their vision. She explained they have three commitments which are the hiring procedures, appeals process and organizational & audit process. She asked what advice we would offer as they proceed. Also, how a report might be crafted to be the greatest value to our community.

Torrence then told us that although Dr. Sheets couldn't attend the meeting, he did say that the Faculty Senate is working on helping set up the Health Benefits Committee, the phased retirement proposal, and are reviewing the spousal fee waiver.

Karen Harris then took over the meeting for the election of officers. She had mistakenly added Rebecca Stinnett's name to the ballot even though it wasn't submitted by the deadline, but it was determined that Rebecca wasn't eligible as she hasn't been back on council long enough. The election results were as follows: Chair – Roxanne Torrence – 15 votes, Kelly Hall – 10 votes; Vice Chair – Kelly Hall – 13 votes, Tracy McDaniel – 12 votes; Secretary – Theresa Ortega – 15 votes, Wilma Turetzky – 7 votes, Jennifer Brewer – 3 votes; and Treasurer – Leslie Krockenberger – 9 votes; Jennifer Brewer – 6 votes, Wilma Turetzky – 6 votes, and Anita Adams – 4 votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The April, 2009 minutes were approved with changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The February, 2009 treasurer's report was approved. After Treasurer Report, Hall asked that it be noted in the minutes how much \$\$ was left in the treasury for the new Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Torrence began the report by explaining the phased retirement plan that Diann McKee had sent her. This is a stand-alone policy. Incentive that is in place now will not change. She will be sending a copy of this plan out to everyone for review. Also, she asked that if anyone has children that will be attending orientation for incoming students, they should submit their names for possible waiver for support staff dependents.

HUMAN RESOURCE REPORT:

Downs announced that an Advisory Employee Benefits committee will be organized this summer. The President has asked for recommendations for this committee. He also talked about the performance reviews that are being processed. He hopes everyone is nearing completion. They have had a few bugs but hopefully everything is going smoothly. HR will be sending out a survey when all the appraisals are completed.

Hall brought up the conversation that Employee Relations and SEBC discussed concerning raises that they thought were budgeted for last year and this would be the 2nd year. Torrence told everyone she had investigated this, and those two years have already been distributed. Downs said raises will not be decided on until the state budget has been approved – definitely will not be July 1st. He did say the longer it takes the state, the worse it will be for everyone. Adams asked if a raise does come in the Fall, would they make it retro? Downs said he didn't think that would happen. McDaniel said the President felt it would be more like January 1st.

Downs also brought up the sick leave transfer policy. Administration still has some details to work out. More guidelines need to be finalized. The intent of this policy is for rare cases that are in dire need. It is hopeful that this policy will go into effect July 1st. Torrence said the President's Council said it would have to be in at least one-day increments for donating time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports given today.

Election Committee: Karen Harris, Chair

Employee Relations Committee: Kelly Hall, Chair

Public Relations Committee: Jennifer Brewer, Chair

Salary and Employee Benefits Committee: Wilma Turetzky, Chair

Scholarship Committee – Tonya Bolinger, Chair

DISCUSSION:

The council then talked about an issue that is being reviewed during the closed session.

Next meeting is June 11, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.