

Staff Council Minutes

September 19th, 2011

Present: Carol Van Houten, John Bellacosa, Diane Newman, Jeanne Raichle, Audrey Pryce, Cathleen Wiggins, Barbara Dubitsky, Diana Pondt, Arianne Kailas, Mollie Welsh Kruger, Joy Lundeen Ellebbane, Jeannie Crowley, Julia Ho, Matt Borgmeyer, Caitlin Rycewicz, Akilah Rosado McQueen, Agatha Forrester, Lindsey Wyckoff

1. Intros from new and returning members

2. Update from Akilah

- a. September newsletter was sent out from the President's office last Friday
- b. Based on Peer Review last year there were some questions about the Family Center, which will be reviewed further
 - i. Trustee grouping for this analysis, Sue Kaplan will chair committee
 - ii. What is the financial impact of the Family Center?
 1. The trustee committee hasn't met yet, till they meet there are no further comments, don't know much about the finances, there has been an ongoing deficit but I'm not sure how much or how long it's been going on for
- c. Website structure bugs being worked out, still dialogue about who goes to what for what types of information changing, committee formulating on the need to enhance communication, how content gets posted
- d. There is some construction that is going on to keep our building up to code, will be finished by mid October
 - i. Debris was falling off the building, corners of building were secured, with camp/classes the project was stretched out, there were also weather set-backs
- e. Is the President going to give an overview of the facilities in our upcoming All-College?
 - i. Frank sent out a note in May to give everyone a sense of the construction, normally this information is given via email, I'll find it and resend it to Carol
- f. The facilities master plan was completed by HLW, they ran focus groups on space use, they are still in the process of crunching all of the gathered information, in October they will make a presentation to the board about what they've learned
- g. The library is finished! Nice work was done
- h. Gmail Transfer?
 - i. As of Thursday there are guinea pigs in CIS beginning to use Gmail.
 - ii. Aiming to be in effect college wide by the end of October
 - iii. Should be a seamless transition from Groupwise to Gmail, will still look like Bank Street email

- iv. In the process of making sure everything is covered, pending transfers and kinks, everyone else will get on

3. September All-College

- a. September All-College is this Friday, kernel of the idea developed from the Budget Priorities Committee last year, the subject will be retirement
 - i. 2 staff members who retired last year will be there to have an open conversation with the president
 - ii. TIAA-CREF will be there to present (with appropriate literature)
 - iii. All-College will be applicable for people of all ages, especially with the current economic environment, younger people are forced to think about retirement
 - iv. Very brief update from President
 - v. Will there be advertisement for All-College?
 - 1. Yes
 - vi. All Colleges will take place this year twice on Fridays and twice on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 in order to convenience the grad school and the school for children
 - vii. December 9th is our Holiday Party, we will discuss this in our November SC meeting
 - 1. Our next two All-Colleges are February 15th and May 9th
 - viii. Do we have the same procedures and protocol for our co-heads of staff council to meet with leadership?
 - 1. Yes, after SC things come up which we take to meetings with leadership (president & cabinet), usually same week as our meetings, hear what's on people's minds from each division, take info and concerns to cabinet/president, back and forth relationship

4. Status of Sub Committees

- a. Exhibits Committee:
 - i. Cheryl Simon is the chair, same members as last year (including John, Lindsey, Julia, Cathleen & Maria Richa)
- b. Budget Priorities Committee
 - i. Wendy Sealey is the returning chair
 - ii. An idea that came up last year was to have Q&A with Frank and feature one pertinent question per month in regards to budget questions
- c. Sabbatical Committee
 - i. Waiting for president to name new chair
 - ii. Could be union eligible openings
- d. Diversity Committee
 - i. Put out a survey to staff in regards to health and wellness, received more responses than ever, staff expressed interest in yoga, this fall we have a yoga instructor coming for ten sessions for 15 staff members (the first 15 to sign up).

- ii. In the spring there will be a boot camp with Ricky
- iii. There will be a nutritionist from the DOE in October (who comes for free!)
- iv. Reframing Diversity Committee? Diversity and Health? Diversity and Community? No new name as of yet
- v. Cathleen will decide by our October meeting if she is willing to take leadership on this committee
- vi. Molly is interested in the committee
- vii. SFC did diversity work last year, try some ideas with the larger community? Worked with a woman named Jane Bolgatz (Fordham University).
- viii. Zeny screening a movie?

5. Feedback on Cafeteria

- a. SFC, Grad Faculty, Library, all many positive responses to the quality of food in Cafeteria. Everyone at SC is eating in cafeteria more than ever. People are finding the experience more communal, more chatting with coworkers from other divisions going on in the cafeteria, and the fare is much more healthy than before.
- b. SFC leadership has been working with Chef Chad to get the line flow working better for the students. They have changed the seating arrangements and are working towards finding ways to serve students quicker, more efficiently.
- c. Suggestions for Chad: Signage or include in email so people realize that salad bar and drinks are included even if you get the hot food.
- d. Include in email to staff when the children are being served, so that staff will come at the less busy periods
- e. Would it be ok for staff to bring their own containers to put their purchased lunch in, if they need to take it back to their desks?
- f. Is Chef Chad considering a price break for staff if they sign up for a meal plan for 5 days a week? Could it come directly out of paycheck?
- g. What is the \$5.50 after hot part if over deal? Is that for Grad students only? Did that get promoted or did we miss it? Also how late is kitchen serving?
- h. Is there a chance to set up alternate pricing if you just wanted to buy the soup, for instance, or just the salad bar?
- i. Small concern over the clean-up of catering to meetings taking place slowly

6. Scheduling Division Meetings

- a. We decided to try to schedule 2 divisions or departments reports at each meeting. For October, Graduate School and Family Center will give divisional reports. (sometimes it may be a department report rather than a division)

7. Future All-Colleges

- a. CVH proposed Graduate School presenting at one future All-College this year and Children's Programs presenting at the other, as we have had presentations in the recent past from IA and Con't ed. People agreed to think about it. Matt proposed having a more interactive presentation, perhaps showing a video and then having discussions in groups about what we had seen. The question of making the presentations interesting enough was mentioned but not resolved. To be continued...