

Staff Association Minutes

1/14/15

Senators Present:

Tara Stoll, Les Parnell, Jackie Burns, Barb Harris, Matt McDonald, Derek Evans, Debbie Johnson, Amy Foley, Carolyn Schindler, Brenda Griffith

Senators Absent:

Ryan Menley, Tara Adwell, Jennifer Riley, Jenny Sherlock, Hawley Rumpf, Amy Parnell

Staff Present:

Fred Nesslage, Sara Freemyer, Lisa May, Dawn Baker, Deb Smith, Carol Hare (ex officio and faculty/staff liaison)

Guests Present:

Dr. Bob Vartabedian, Dr. Jeanne Daffron, Dr. Cale Fessler, Sally Sanders, Shana Meyer, Jerry Pickman, Dr. Gretchen Quenstedt-Moe (faculty/staff liaison), Dr. Doug Davenport, Lionel Attawia (student governor)

Matt McDonald calls meeting to order. This is our first meeting for the spring semester.

Matt introduces the E Board for visitors.

Dr. Vartabedian running late.

Report of Dr. Daffron:

- Off to a good start to the spring semester on registration and advising. Thank you to everyone who is a part of that process.
- Introduction of new associate provost, Dr. Doug Davenport. Dr. Davenport is on day 8 with Missouri Western and comes to us from Truman State University, thus is very familiar with the state of Missouri and education.
- Enrollment milestone
 - We now have over 200 graduate students.
 - We reached this before Ben Caldwell, dean of graduate studies, thought we would, so that is nice.
 - Since we graduated over 50 in graduate programs, we will be switching to a Carnegie Classification. This doesn't change much of anything for us but is a classification.

Question by Matt McDonald – Is this because we've graduated 50 overall, or 50 one time?

Answer by Dr. Daffron – 50 per year.

Question by Jackie Burns – Will it change benchmarks?

Answer by Dr. Daffron – It may slightly in some things, but nothing major. It will not for performance funding.

Report of Mr. Jerry Pickman:

- Kim Weddle is now the director of development in Foundation. Very glad to have her back.
- Office moves have been completed.
- Centennial and Centennial Capital Campaign Kick-Off
 - First main event is Friday, January 16.
 - Employee Recognition Rally is at 4pm.
 - This is add/drop day as well, and I apologize if you can't join us. We will try to do some things to remedy that.
 - January 17 is official public kick-off in Potter Hall Theatre, 8pm.
 - Quixotic will be putting on a performance; they do what is called digital mapping. They did the KC Union Station piece. It is considered a 3D multi-media performance.
 - There will also be an earth harp.
 - Limited on seating, but you are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Jenna Stevens.
 - Special announcements to be made that night.
 - East Hills Mall display nearly done.
 - Along the wall of JC Penney; check it out!
 - Videos, website, printing and design, etc. being worked on.

Question by Jackie Burns – The rally on Friday; is it formal? Spirit rally? Should we wear our black and gold?

Answer by Mr. Pickman – It's informal; could wear black and gold.

Carol Hare – The committee will be wearing B&G.

Report of Dr. Fessler:

- Work with Schneider Electric kicked off this semester.
 - Hearnest is about half done (lighting retrofits).
 - GISC is next on the list for replacement; buzzing will stop.
 - Energy savings will be very helpful.
- Spratt Stadium Renovation Project– moving forward.
 - Ellison-Auxier was approved as architect in December.
 - In design phase at this point.
 - Bid process will begin in February.
 - Work to begin in March, pending weather.
 - Looking to operate the last five home games of the next football season in new stadium.
- IRS work – request and examination.
 - They've sent a few more records requests.
 - The work continues.
 - It could be another six months or more before any official report.
 - A lot of records are being collected.
- Yvonne Meyer has been hired for new police chief.
 - She comes from Cape Cod Community College in MA, where she is police chief.

○ Excited to have her. She will begin her duties about mid-February.
Remark from Jackie Burns – Lighting on top floor of Hearnest is “awesome” now after Schneider Electric work.

Response from Dr. Fessler – Updating all light fixtures. Glad to hear that people think it’s “awesome”.

Report of Ms. Meyer:

- Debate team – Good success.
 - We’ve had a team qualify for nationals, and they will go in March.
 - Some transitioning of leaders/directors.
- A residence hall director has resigned, so we are on the hunt for a replacement.
- Human Resources taking care of TB screenings and following up with tests if needed.
- Pool has been in the news again lately – It’s been confirmed there’s a leak.
 - Plans this semester to verify where leak is and estimate cost of repair.
 - In 2014, there were 10,000-12,000 visits (not people) to pool.
 - Interesting to see numbers on who is using pool. Looking at Missouri Western specific visitors.
- MLK events happening next week.
 - Today is the deadline to RSVP for the MLK banquet, Wed., January 21.
 - Looking for student nominees for the Drum Major for Justice Award.
- Student Governor, Lionel Attawia, is introduced.
 - Role is to serve as student representative on Board of Governors.
 - Try to be as close to issues as I can.
 - Try to get my voice out there.
 - Involved in SGA.
 - If need anything, please contact me.

Report of Ms. Sanders:

- Fitness classes being offered through MWSU Wellness Program – swimming and yoga.
 - I encourage you to check it out.
 - Nice offering for employees and a guest.
 - Exciting to see activity surrounding these classes.
 - Very non-committal; no need to enroll.
- Wellness and weight loss programs and incentives – check out our website.
- Benefits wellness survey will be done this spring.
- Student Employment – did three training sessions to discuss changes being made.
 - You cannot start a student employee working until they receive an authorization form from Human Resources. This is a huge compliance issue.
 - Great response to training sessions; great dialogue.
 - Any questions, please contact HR or student development/employment.

- Embarking on new realm of training and finalizing a contract with a vendor for some online training.
 - EEO type of training for faculty and staff will be first type of training offered.
 - Can do on own time at work.
 - Adding Title IX training as well and will be coming later this spring.

Report of Dr. Vartabedian:

- Contract extension with Chiefs expires midnight tomorrow, so we are scrambling to get things finalized.
 - Possible press conference tomorrow to make announcement.
- Classes off and running. So far so good. Haven't noticed any bad complaints about parking yet.
- Huge events coming up. Friday & Saturday kick-off Centennial and Campaign events (Mr. Pickman described earlier.)
- On Friday at the Employee Rally, I will briefly talk about state of the university. There are four big things going on at once:
 - Schneider Electric process
 - Master Planning process
 - Centennial Celebration & Spratt Stadium
 - Bi-partisan support in general assembly of about \$ 5 million for immediate use for repair and renovation.

Question by Matt McDonald – Is it looking like the Chiefs will extend?

Answer by Dr. Vartabedian – Yes, probably for longer than you think; we are happy about that.

Question by Barb Harris – So was the earlier complaint about the practice fields just a game?

Answer by Dr. Vartabedian – This was no game; we had to make the fields right. They play hardball. Even Governor Nixon helped us out quite a bit.

Remark by Matt McDonald – I think it's good news for everybody.

Response by Dr. Vartabedian – A lot of people all over campus do a lot of hard work to make the Chiefs Camp happen, so it's good news for all of them; GREAT news for everybody else.

Remark by Debbie Johnson – It is great for the local economy.

Response by Dr. Vartabedian – We can't buy that kind of PR. It's a point of pride.

Question by Jackie Burns – Is that \$5 million a done deal?

Answer by Dr. Vartabedian – No, it's not, but it has bi-partisan support. Chances are good it'll pass. Could pass anytime; earlier than May, we think.

Remark by Dr. Fessler – We've submitted project proposals, i.e. network upgrades, Schneider Electric work, building upgrades (interior). Some projects may not be approved. We feel good about it. First time we've received state funding (with exception of Remington/Agenstein) in well over a decade.

A bit more discussion regarding the proposal process.

Question by Barb Harris – Are we competing for money?

Answer by Dr. Vartabedian – No, our chunk is about \$5 million.

Old Business:

Minutes approval – October and November 2014

Jackie Burns – Do we have a quorum? Yes.

- October Minutes – Barb Harris will be making a minor change regarding placement of Carol Hare.

Debbie Johnson – There is a typo on page three / “an” instead of “and”.

Barb Harris – There is a typo on page three / “Hispanic” instead of “Hispanice”.

Debbie Johnson moves that we accept minutes with corrections.

Jackie Burns seconds.

APPROVED

- November Minutes – No changes stated.

Debbie Johnson moves that we accept minutes.

Barb Harris seconds.

APPROVED

Committee Reports:

Advantage, Carolyn Schindler

- Adopted two families during holidays.
- Collected over \$1300 in cards and cash.
- Families were very appreciative; both wrote very nice thank you notes.
- Information is in Griffon Weekly.
- Committee is grateful to everyone who helped.

Constitution & By-Laws, Derek Evans

- No report

Grievance, Amy Foley

- No report

Election, Barb Harris

- No report

Professional Development, Tara

- Professional Development budget is now exhausted (\$16 left).
- For the year, we’ve awarded a total of \$3000 to 16 different people.
- To date, we have declined four requests due to an exhausted budget.

Salary & Fringe, Debbie Johnson

- Have had no meeting, but Faculty Senate will bring questions back for committee via Regan Dodd.

Special Events, Matt McDonald reporting for Jenny Sherlock

- Raised over \$700 for Open Door Food Kitchen at Winter Retreat.
- 212 food items delivered; thank you to Debbie Vaughn for delivering.
- 175-180 attended, which might be our biggest yet.
- Thank to those who registered prior to the event.
- Thank you to the committee for planning.
- Jackie Burns thanks the committee for their work on the event. Loved the photo booth that IMC has for rent.

Welcoming, Jackie Burns

- No report – should have a report next month.

Matt McDonald is adding Carol Hare (liaison) to committee reports.

Report by Carol Hare

- UGCC updates
- New senator position based on newly formed school of fine arts
 - Gretchen – vote failed to restructure senate

Question by Jackie – Who represents school of fine arts on Faculty Senate?

Answer by Gretchen Quinstedt-Moe – A certain number of representatives for Schools of LAS and PS.

- Faculty senate meeting tomorrow, 1/15/15.

New Business:

Question by Jackie Burns – In light of Tara Stoll's report regarding the professional development budget, can the money be split by semesters?

Answer by Tara Stoll – The committee has discussed this and ultimately decided against it based on the idea of 'first come first served'. It can be revisited, but will research the committee's discussion and do a brief report next meeting.

Question by Matt McDonald – Is it common to run out of funding?

Answer by Tara Stoll – Yes, it is. With a \$3,000 budget, it gets eaten up pretty quickly, because the typical award is \$200, which is also the maximum award.

Question by Carol Hare – What is the SA's means or approach to increase our budget? Because we are in a position now where we don't have a lot of money for a Spring Retreat.

Discussion regarding budget, i.e. where does it come from? Foundation?

Debbie Johnson comments that monies do not come from Foundation. Although Foundation will donate some money for that purpose, our actual budget is from general operation fund.

Carol Hare question – Have we ever tried to get an increase in our budget?

Discussion – Years ago, we tried and were turned down; perhaps we should try again.

Matt McDonald comment – E-board is meeting next week to discuss budget. We paid more for Winter Retreat meal than what our entire annual budget.

Discussion – Does Foundation help cover meal or just gift cards/incentives?

Les Parnell will ask Amy Parnell about Foundation covering portion of meal in past.

More discussion and a clarification that the E-board is meeting to discuss budget next week.

Next official meeting is February 11, 2015, Blum 220.

Motion to adjourn by Barb Harris.

Seconded by Tara Stoll

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Stoll

2nd Vice President