

**Senators Present:** Jackie Burns, Derek Evans, Jessica Frogge, John Gregory, Carol Hare, Barb Harris, Eric Kramer, Christina Lund, Lisa May, Louise Mills, Fred Nesslage, Tara Stoll, Jena Williams

**Senators Absent:** Nick Edwards, Amy Foley, Hawley Rumpf

**Staff:** Nathan Buhman, Blair Carmichael, Jessica Poet, Minerva Torres

**Invited Guests:** Dr. Doug Davenport, Dr. Robert Vartabedian

**Dr. Vartabedian: Appropriation for next year** – we are waiting to hear from the governor before June 26, 2017. A 6.8% reduction was suggested. **Board appointments** – still have four board members until everything plays out in Jefferson City. **End of year events** – went extremely well. **Land development** – pursuing eighty acres between MWSU and Herzog. **Tara Stoll** – named co-chair of One Voice Citizens Task Force for St. Joseph School District. Tara will chair this committee with Curtis Zahnd.

**Question:** Is it known whether budget cuts will affect Professional Development opportunities through HR and Staff Association?

**Answer by Dr. Vartabedian:** Of the \$6500 budgeted through HR, \$195 will be the 3% cut. No cuts will be made to the Foundation's \$7000 budgeted amount to Staff Association.

**Dr. Davenport: On behalf of Jennie McDonald and Jeanne Daffron** – thanks for all hard work that made commencement an outstanding event. There were many positive remarks made – due to the work of everyone across campus. **Strategic Planning Process** – finalizing environmental scan. A SWOT exercise is being conducted to identify areas of strength, external threats and opportunities. Also, this will prepare an institutional profile. Beginning this summer, the group will begin talks with our Board of Governors to see what their ideas are – what they feel should be a part of strategic planning. Then, students, faculty, staff, and general public. Big/small ideas, etc. will be needed. The Strategic Planning group has been great to work with. Two members were lost – Sally Sanders and Sara from the Bursar's office. Those two places will not be filled. **Performance Funding** – we were asked by the state to give another option to our performance funding. We are recommending a measure of students aged twenty-five and over. Looking at our peer group, we look favorable. This fits well/plays to our strength.

Question from Tara: will this begin for the AY18 year?

Response from Dr. Davenport: the proposal has been submitted. We have been trending favorably. It will be in effect for the AY19 year.

Question from Jessica: funding for student presentations – SGA has set aside monies to help.

Response from Dr. Davenport: yes, it is wonderful. The intent is not to de-emphasize applied learning.

**Dr. Vartabedian:** two late breaking news items:

- Freshman golfer qualified for D2 Nationals
- Board has just approved use of Royal and Company for two more years at a locked in fee. Freshmen applications are up 50%. There is a possible increase of 10% for the incoming freshmen class. Census Day: September 20. Everything looks like the freshman class could be at 1000. Derek Evans shared that we have pre-registered 600.

Question from Barb: How is retention going?

Response from Dr. Davenport: we have increased. Exact numbers are not known.

**By-Laws: Michelle Diaz**

- Beginning with section V, changes were proposed under each committee.
- An additional suggestion came from Executive Board to create VII for Staff Association Communication.
  - Tara shared: requests to send information via listserv from various campus departments that is important, but not staff association related.
  - Jackie: suggestion to remove Griffon Weekly wording – making the wording more universal.
  - Announcements not specifically related to official Staff Association business shall be sent via other university communications.
  - Motion from B. Harris and second from J. Burns to approve the report with changes noted was passed.

**C-3: Carol Hare**

- With departure of S. Sanders in Human Resources, progress is slow currently. Carol will meet with Sara for logistics and facts for future reference. Sara is contacting Carol as her schedule allows.

**Salary & Fringe: Carol Hare**

- No Report

**Constitution & By-Laws: Michelle Diaz**

- Nothing further

**Welcoming: Jackie Burns**

- No Report

**Election: Christina Lund**

- The results of 2017-2018 Staff Association Senators were shared. The list is as follows:

- **Exempt:** J. Burns, D. Evans, A. Foley, E. Kramer, L. Mills, F. Nesslage, T. Stoll, and J. Williams
- **Non-Exempt:** J. Frogge, C. Hare, B. Harris, K. Kelly, C. Lund, L. May, J. Poet, and H. Rumpf

**Grievance: Carol Hare reporting for Kathy Kelly**

- A copy of the grievance communication draft will be taken to GAC
  - Reasons for filing include adding and correcting the document wording. Handicap wording was updated.
    - Tara shared that the document just needed to be updated with these changes.
  - A motion by B. Harris was seconded by F. Nesslage and approved.

**Professional Development: Tara Stoll reporting for Nick Edwards**

- Tara reported that Nick will remain on the Staff Senate until July

**Special Events: Christina Lund**

- Spring Retreat will be an Ice Cream Social. It is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 1:30pm in Agenstein Hall.

**Advantage: Jackie Burns reporting for Chad Edwards**

- Committee is working on a procedural binder/folder. Tara suggested offering assistance to new committee chairs.

**President's Report: Tara Stoll**

- Tara will submit proposed by-laws changes to GAC
- Strategic Planning: is continuing. It is a large project that takes time.
- Budget Advisory Council: last meeting was productive. Not much more is known until the governor signs off on the proposed budget.
- C. Hare: Dr. Fessler is planning for worst case scenario (9.1%). Easy cuts have come first. More difficult cuts will come, if needed. The governor has until June 26 to respond to the proposed state budget. April revenue for the state was down. State income tax refunds are on hold.
  - Question from J. Burns: Could Governor Greitens change the budget mid-year?
    - Response from C. Hare: yes. There is no cap or limitations. It is the governor's job to balance the budget.
  - Question from E. Kramer: Has \$1.5 million in reductions been resolved?
    - Response from C. Hare and T. Stoll: Yes. 15 positions of salary plus benefits have not been filled.
  - Question from D. Evans: has anyone taken the early retirement option?

- Response from C. Hare: No one came to the meeting to learn more. They have another three weeks to make the change.
- Tara: committee continues to meet every two weeks.
- Question from J. Burns: Is there anything to add to the budget website?
  - Response from C. Hare: Carol will provide link and recent changes.
- Question from B. Harris: What is Carol's sense of everyone's awareness?
  - Response from C. Hare: this budget cut is different in that the governor cannot be read. There is a large unknown factor.
  - Response from T. Stoll: faculty are reviewing program numbers. C. Hare shared that degrees are being reviewed and how many are graduating from each program. It is a 1-3 year process for program reviews.
- Tara attended the HLC meeting in April with Dr. Davenport, Dr. Kraft and Dr. Hepworth. Things in higher ed are changing tremendously. We are positioned well in strategic planning.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President's Report: Barb Harris**

- Budget: \$593.86 will be used for June Staff Retreat.
- GAC: Students are presenting. Shana and Jeanne both said to keep spreading the good word. Jerry said \$800,000 in scholarships was awarded this past year. Tuition and room & board rates have increased slightly. It is important to make students understand the tight budget. RFPs are out for the new phone system. The transition will be an ongoing process. Fred will look at every site that exists now. Fred, Sharon and Mark will look at fax machines and if those can go to an electronic system. Some are required (athletics, health info, etc.) Transition date will be Wednesday, June 28. It will take most of the day. The new system will be built and in place after the training sessions.
  - Question from Barb: will old phone jacks remain? Response: yes – there is no reason to pull them out.

### **Other Business:**

- J. Frogge: SGA is looking to implement campus wide app. They are getting communication together to see demonstration.

**Motion to adjourn:** 4:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Lund