

Staff Association Minutes

8/13/14

Senators Present:

Tara Stoll, Matt McDonald, Jackie Burns, Barb Harris, Amy Parnell, Derek Evans, Carolyn Schindler, Amy Foley

Senators Absent:

Tara Adwell, Brenda Griffith, Jennifer Riley, Debbie Johnson, Ryan Menley, Les Parnell, Hawley Rumpf, Jenny Sherlock

Staff Present:

Carol Hare, John Gregory, Jenna Stevens, Dana Heldenbrand, Christina Lund

Guests (Administration) Present:

Bob Vartabedian, Jeanne Daffron, Shana Meyer, Cale Fessler, Mallory Murray

Matt McDonald, president –

- welcome and call to order
- introduction of the E board for the 2014-15 AY

Report of Dr. Vartabedian –

- Centennial celebration is in four months; many events coming.
- Very interesting year
- Master planning is being done by Clark-Huesemann out of Lawrence, Kansas; Report expected in seven months
- We have gone from approximately a dozen international students to 150; be sensitive to cultural challenges
- Steve Craig has taken over East Hills Mall
- Cronkite Memorial and play honored by the Missouri State Tourism Association with the Governor's Spotlight Award
- A Pulitzer nomination for "Cronkite" is being considered
- Doug Brinkley will speak at our November 4 Convocation on Critical Issues
- Chiefs Camp is currently in progress. Regarding future camps, would be surprised if they pull out. A decision must be made by December 1, 2014. Preliminary meetings have been good. They have complained about the practice fields, but Missouri Western is not responsible for their maintenance. Camp is over as of Thursday, August 14.
- Capital Campaign is still in its quiet phase.
- May launch Centennial Year at East Hills Mall on New Years. A lot of events are going on that year.

Question: If the Chiefs aren't happy with the practice fields, are there ways to improve them?

Answer: They are not happy with the turf that their groundskeeper designed, the sprinklers, the entrances and exits. MWSU isn't responsible.

Report of Dr. Daffron –

- General Session will be held August 18 with refreshments at 8:30am and program at 9am. Will acknowledge new staff and faculty. There are almost 50 new staff and 25-29 new faculty.
- ALWAYS be considering ways to improve student enrollment, completion, retention.
- Our retention rate is up, our graduation rate is up, and we should celebrate that.

Question: If an academic department is wanting to change recruitment by hosting events, do they need to run that by any specific group?

Answer: Yes, Patty Kuechler and Dr. Daffron. PR can help with event marketing, as well.

Question: Will we have a mid-year General Session this AY? If so, can we introduce new staff at that time?

Answer: Yes, that's a good idea.

Report of Jerry Pickman (Mallory Murray reporting) –

- Capital Campaign is in its quiet phase with kick-off in 2015.
- The Centennial website is up. Nominations for notables on website; can also submit memories.
- Centennial Book by Diane Holtz.
- Campus letterhead will have Centennial logo on it this year.
- If a department is planning events that will carry the centennial name, please let PR know.
- Griffon Weekly info – according to survey, 30% prefer individual emails and 70% prefer Griffon Weekly. A redesign is in progress.
- We had a record number of licensing merchandise sales this year.
- A parent newsletter is in the works and will be sent out once per month.
- New ad campaign, "Everything is Possible".

Report of Dr. Fessler –

- We are in the audit time of year. Audit report will be done in October for the Board of Governors.
- Students are scrambling to pay bills. About 1600 received communication to get them paid.
- Human Resource information – Health Insurance renewal has a tough road ahead. We have a lot of claims and utilization.
- Summer project information – parking lot repairs, lighting rebate from KCPL for \$75k for new light installs, roof repairs, Potter Hall expansion will not be completed by the start of school; September. Wilson Hall construction is not complete. Dr. Fessler will follow up on that.
- Chiefs Camp – A lot of staff working; thank you.

Report of Shana Meyer –

- International students are arriving to campus now. 80 current; 50 new.
- New position of International Global Director has been posted.
- Residence halls are full.
- RAs are in training.
- Football team arrives 8/14.
- CSI (Center for Student Involvement) is ready for fall. Foam party and Western Warm-up on 8/25.
- CME (Center for Multicultural Education) will hold orientation the week of 8/18. The mentoring program has gone up in numbers.
- Recreational Services – Pool remains open for now. There will be a student forum in September.
- Baker Fitness Center has a new floor and is ready to go.
- The Counseling Center is available for students in light of the death of Robin Williams and the issues in Ferguson, MO. We are working to find out if anyone went to school with the young man who was killed in Ferguson.
- The Student Employment Job Fair will now be coupled with the Career Fair to be held in September, instead of on August 28. *(This information has been amended. The Student Employment Fair WILL be held on August 28, 2014 as originally planned.)*
- Use Griffon Link when hiring student employees.
- New mandates – All employees filled out TB screening information along with their contracts. Title IX states that if a student comes to you with a report of sexual misconduct, etc, you are responsible to report it to Shana Meyer or Sally Sanders. This is a requirement. We are ALL considered responsible parties and can not keep secrets.

Question: Are counselors required to report?

Answer: Counselors and lawyers still have client-professional privilege as always.

Old Business:

- May Minutes are missing; Carol Hare will attempt to find.
- There are no June minutes.

New Business:

- There is no chair for the Special Events committee.

Question: Can there be co-chairs?

Answer: Jackie Burns says there is nothing in the by-laws that says we can't do that, but she will double check.

- Carol Hare suggests trying to increase membership in committees, especially Special Events, as it is a lot of work.
- We are tabling confirmation of committee appointments, however committees can still work.

Committee Reports:

- Advantage – No report.
- Constitution & Bylaws – No report.
- Grievance – No report.

Question: Can a person file a grievance after being terminated?

Answer: Yes. We should add this to bylaws with a statute of limitations.

- Election – No report.
- Professional Development – Tara Stoll reports that the committee has approved four requests for funding. Requests continue to come in.
- Salary & Fringe – Debbie Johnson reports via email that the committee has not yet met and will plan to get the Shared Leave document to GAC by October.
- Special Events – No report or chair.
- Welcoming – Jackie Burns reports that four new employees were welcomed in July. Jenna Stevens, Dwania Walker, Kelly Matlack, Neil Ross.

Discussion:

- There will be no change in meeting times this AY.
- All senators will be mailed postcards that they can distribute to their constituents.
- Question: Can a senator represent him/herself? Answer: Yes
- Matt McDonald - St. Joseph Transit asked the Business Office is there is any interest in selling bus passes on campus.
 - We would have to invest a large amount in them up front.
 - Interest level seems to be very low at this point.
- Amy Parnell – Lonnie Johnson retires January 31. The search has commenced. Jon Kelley retired June 30, and that search is on-going.

Barb Harris made a motion to adjourn.

Amy Parnell seconded.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2014, Blum 220

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Stoll
2nd Vice President