

Staff Association Meeting April 10, 2013

Senators Present: Cathy Everett, Amy Foley, Diane Holtz, Debbie Johnson, Amy Parnell, Les Parnell, Carolyn Schindler, Deatra Tyler.

Ex-officio Present: Dan Eckhoff

Senators Absent: Carol Criss, Barb Harris (on leave), Sherry Hartley, Kathy Joe, Ryan Menley, Hawley Rumpf, Jenny Sherlock, Tara Stoll.

Staff Members Present: Cori Criger

Guests Present: Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Dr. Jeanne Daffron, Cale Fessler, Shana Meyer, Sally Sanders, Mallory Murray.

Dr. Vartabedian:

1. There are five bills that Missouri Western is keeping an eye on in the state Legislature:
 - a. Bonding – Potter Hall is included in the bill, but even if it passed in the Legislature, it would require a vote by the citizens.
 - b. Higher education funding
 - c. Land Lease Sunset Clause – this is looking good.
 - d. Appropriations – currently about \$200,000 more than last year is in the bill.
 - e. Tax Cut – we are hoping this doesn't happen, because it could affect higher education funding.
2. Status of position searches:
 - *VP for Student Affairs – Shana Meyer began April 1; she is here today.
 - *Director of Public Relations and Marketing – Mallory Murray began April 8. She is here today.
 - *Incubator Director – Still in the works. We have limited control on this search.
 - *Dean of the Craig School of Business – We'll bring finalists to campus next week.
 - *Associate VP for Financial Planning and Administration – we are pleased with the finalists.
 - *Founding Dean of School of Fine Arts – Just launched the search. We should get a good pool of applicants. There will be three departments in the school – Theatre, Art and Music. Communication Studies wants to stay with Liberal Arts and Sciences.
3. There is a lot going on right now on campus; “Sweeney Todd” opens tomorrow. We are having a record-breaking year in baseball.
4. First Chiefs camp meeting tomorrow for year four.
5. We have had consultants come in and we are about to launch a capital campaign.

Dr. Daffron:

1. The new dean of Professional Studies is Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, who is currently chair of the Department of Nursing and Allied Health. She begins her duties July 1.

2. One month from tomorrow is commencement, where we celebrate student successes. The work you all do with students is wonderful.
3. Summer enrollment is going well. Students are really interested in online courses in the summer. Students are always asking for more.

Cale Fessler:

1. Tuition and room and board rates were approved at the March Board of Governors meeting. Thank you to the staff and the provost's office for their help with the presentation.
2. The associate vice president position is winding down. We will bring three finalists to campus. Thank you to Deatra Tyler and Dan Eckhoff for chairing the committee.
3. A lot of summer repair projects are planned.
4. I attended the Washington, DC fly-in, and it was very successful. This year we supported the 139th Air Guard and the levee system. Rep. Sam Graves and Sen. Claire McCaskill submitted statements of support.

Mallory Murray for Dr. Jonathan Yordy:

1. Murray introduced herself as the new director of public relations and marketing.
2. The Foundation Appreciation Reception on April 9 was a wonderful event. It showcased students.
3. Jerry Pickman has been promoted to associate vice president for university advancement.
4. We are working on updating the Branding Standards Manual.
5. We have a few upcoming events: Griffons Uncorked on April 19, Night at the Ritz on April 26 and Rock Around the Clock Tower on May 18.

Shana Meyer

1. Thank you for the warm campus welcome.
2. Meyer is living in Griffon Hall right now. Feel free to email her with any questions – slmeyer@missouriwestern.edu.
3. We currently have searches on for career development director and director for the center for multicultural education, and residence hall director. Chris Booher was hired as administrative assistant for career development.
4. SGA voted to fund a patio renovation outside the Blum Union. Meyer distributed information about it. It will cost between \$17,500 and \$20,000. They formed a fee review committee for the Student Success Act.
5. The spring concert is Friday, April 12. The international reception is April 22. And this evening is the one world soccer tournament in the GISC.

Sally Sanders:

1. The wellness screening will take place April 11 and 12. There are still some slots open.
2. Retirement reception is April 30.

Old Business

The minutes from the March 13 meeting could not be approved because there was not a quorum. There were no changes.

Discussion regarding employee morale and talking to administrators was tabled.

Committee Reports

Advantage – Carolyn Schindler reported that they are requesting donations for someone in need of financial assistance. The committee is trying to see if they can donate vacation days to this person because the employee is taking time off to be home with their spouse who is in Hospice.

This idea had been brought up when Dr. Scanlon was here, but Jan Aspelund (former HR director) said no, although Dr. Scanlon supported it.

Dan Eckhoff suggested that if employees were to donate to a vacation pool, there should be a value attached to each vacation hour, and then the value would be in the pool. He noted that the cost of a vacation day is different for different employees.

The consensus of the group was that the idea should be pursued.

Constitution/Bylaws - no report

Grievance - no report

Election – no report

Professional Development –no report

Salary & Fringe –Committee decided that we should submit a proposal regarding raises and awards to Dr. Vartabedian, as faculty did. Currently, the Board of Governors sent the faculty proposal back to the Faculty Senate because it contained faulty data. Dan Eckhoff noted that the figures in the 2012 proposal for a catch-up provision are correct.

It was noted that the Staff Association is in agreement that if there is money for awards, they want to see it equally divided among all staff rather than awarded to some.

Special Events – no report

Welcoming Committee – no report.

New Business

There was no new business.

Eckhoff moved to adjourn, Les Parnell seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Holtz