

Staff Association Minutes

April 10, 2019, 3:00pm

Blum Union Junior College Room

Senators Present: Marissa Steimel, Fred Nesslage, Betsy Wright, Nikki Robertson, Barb Harris, Hawley Rumpf, Jessica Poet, Jessica Frogge, Kathy Gammon, Andrea Collins Keller, Jena Williams, Derek Evans

Senators Absent: Kathy Kelly, Lisa May

Staff Present: Quentin Laws, Ryan Addington, Jackie Burns, Teri Larison, Amber Halstead, Kelly Sloan, Elise Hepworth, Dr. Doug Davenport, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Shana Meyer

Invited Guests: Dr. Vartabedian, President; Dr. Davenport, Interim Provost

Dr. Vartabedian Report:

- Just came from the unveiling of the new mace; Woodworkers Guild did the stand and the mace - they spent half a year creating it; A case of town & gown collaboration; We will be using it on May 4th for commencement; One of the workers has a daughter graduating from MWSU
- Administrative searches going on:
 - Made an offer and have a verbal acceptance from David Morrison for the VP of Financial Planning
 - In the middle of the head women's basketball coach search; a lot of interest from a widespread pool
- Drew Brown donated \$1 million for the Potter Hall project; We've never receive an outright gift of that amount in Dr. Vartabedian's eleven years; if you know Drew, make sure to tell him how much you appreciate it; it moves us \$1.5 million closer to what we need for a matching gift; Drew Brown Arts Annex creates an annex for the three dimensional arts, which will free up a lot of space in Potter Hall
- Tuition & fees for the fall semester; We have a window of opportunity to ask for more than CPI this year due to a bill that went through; We're going to ask for a 5.5% increase in tuition, which will produce \$1.7 million dollars of revenue; the increase is badly needed to make up for lost appropriations over the past few years; there will be no increases in fees; this will be our only chance to ask for a higher increase
- MAGA Hat incident of March 29th; one of our students asked a visiting student to remove his MAGA hat, then it got more intense after that; it has been in some state and national papers and shows; not how we want to be recognized; the Sinclair Media group asked to share it on their page, but the Griffon News asked them not to; We would like this to be a learning experience, in the areas of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and when to share a video; experts say it's not illegal to wear the hat; have heard great feedback on how our campus police handled it
- Things have gone through the House and are now at the Senate; it's been more of a free-for-all with individual schools, which hasn't been what's been done in the past; used to be a united front, but was told other schools are going straight to their senators, so we might as well at this point; Senator Hegeman is very good at fighting for us, as is Senator Luetkemeyer; trying to get more money into our base appropriations

Dr. Davenport Report:

- Busy season; April is "Cranky Month"
- Leadership Transitions
 - Going to send out an email to everyone
 - LAS Dean search is progressing; Zoom interviews have been completed; 64 applicants; anticipate a recommendation of three finalists; most likely going to be during finals week; will probably video tape presentations
 - Dr. Crystal Harris has agreed to serve as the Interim Dean of the College of Professional Studies; made the suggestion to work with colleagues in the School of Nursing & Health Professions to cover responsibilities

- Dr. Susan Bashinski has been asked to serve as the Interim Dean of the Graduate School; part-time assignment for her; she will continue to serve as a faculty member and director of her graduate program
- Western Institute forums for ideas; create a chance to weigh in
- Provost Fellows
 - Going to open it up to exempt staff as well as faculty; give folks in Academic Affairs a broader understanding of how administration works; a leadership development opportunity; staff will need to work with their supervisor to figure out the workload
 - A question came up about whether non-exempt staff would be able to be a fellow; Dr. Davenport asked how would we manage folks who are on the clock, but their department can't afford for them to be doing something else - he welcomes feedback from anyone
- Question came out about the response rate on the CTL surveys; Dr. Davenport said he isn't getting responses because they're going to the co-chairs; faculty do not have the clarity on the professional development needs of staff, so be sure to participate and fill out the surveys; If you want to volunteer, you should go to Dan Shepherd and Shauna Hiley; important to have staff engaged; question about the time commitment

Old Business

February and March minutes

February Minutes:

- Add in Tim Kissock's position to the constituent question on last page as the fifth position
- Minutes approved with changes.

March Minutes:

- Third bullet under Budget Advisory Council
- Minutes approved with changes.

Committee Reports

- *Salary & Fringe*
 - No report.
- *Constitution & By-laws*
 - No report.
- *Welcoming*
 - Teri Larison
- *Election*
 - Friday, April 12th: Email out for nominations
 - Friday, April 26th: Nominations close at 4:30 p.m.
 - Monday, May 13th: Ballot sent out via email
 - Monday, May 20th: Voting closes at 4:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 22nd: Announce results at Spring Retreat
 - How many seats are open? Usually about half of the positions are open
- *Grievance*
 - No report.
- *Professional Development*
 - Eight staff members have committed to being on a sub-committee
 - A senator stated it would have been nice to include a description of the committees when the call went out; can send it out with a reminder that we're looking for staff
 - Jessica Poet gave a report about the different committees; trying to launch in the fall; Fall Programming is meeting more than once a month, but all of the other committees are meeting about once a month;

question was asked about the fall start date in August; survey was supposed to go out before classes began in January; senator brought up the survey was heavily “faculty” based; there was no staff input on the survey; commend the faculty for trying to include us; don’t think we need more bodies on the committee, there are plenty of committee members; Professional Development committee did send feedback from staff survey to the Spring Colloquium; trying to reach out to staff everywhere for input

- Five or six emails asking general questions about the committees
- Professional Development will edit the document that Jessica Poet provided to include the staff members who are already on committees, and then re-send out to everyone
- *Special Events*
 - Got together with professional development committee; the Summer Retreat on May 22nd will be the Staff Association final meeting; 11:30-1:30pm; Blum 218-219; A Slice of Summer; Bartlett Center is the charity we will be supporting; Marissa Steimel will send out tomorrow
- *Advantage*
 - Sent something out to see if anyone needed assistance because of the flooding; Have not received any official requests through the form

President’s Report – Fred Nesslage

- New incoming president
- Budget Advisory Council will meet next week
- Ongoing talks with the city to establish a new fire station on our land on I-29 & Mitchell
 - Potentially create a new University police department
 - Prairie Revitalization project has moved from that location to a different open land section
- Board of Governors meeting at the end of the month - everyone is welcome to attend

First Vice President’s Report – Kathy Kelly (absent)

- Budget Report

Other Business/Open Discussion/Announcements

- Faculty Senate Liaison Report, Jessica Poet
 - Dr. Davenport talked about the 2019 Great College Survey and the paid parental leave policy
 - Personal care rooms - a place for people to take care of medical updates (i.e. insulin shots, etc.)
 - Dr. Judy Grimes retiring
- Next Faculty Senate President is Dr. Elise Hepworth
 - Wants to keep faculty and staff on the same page
 - Open dialogue
 - Working toward the same goal - the students
- Affinity Group
 - Common background, perspective, orientation
 - Being careful about creating guidelines
- Senator discussion about P-card policies

Mark your calendars: No regular meeting in May – Staff retreat on May 22nd in lieu of meeting.