

Staff Association Minutes

February 12, 2020, 3:00pm

Popplewell 304

Senators Present: Derek Evans, Andrea Keller, Hawley Rumpf, Louise Mills, Jean Foster, Claudia Baer, Lisa May, Michelle Jacobs, Kathy Gammon, Marissa Steimel, Kathy Kelly

Senators Absent: Jessica Frogge, Nicki Robertson, Rene Hill, Kathy Gammon, Debbie Vaughn

Staff Present: Trenny Wilson, Michelle Diaz, Jennifer Callow, Annette Weeks, Pam Klaus, Sandra Pennock, Alex Owens, Susan Garrison, Amber Halstead, Mike Cadden, Sara Cravens

Invited Guests: Matthew Wilson, President; Dr. Davenport, Provost

Matthew Wilson Report:

- Spoke to the Speaker of the House
 - Have been down in Jefferson City many times this month, but there are no new monies from the state.
 - Trying to use the Center for Service to get funds from the state, which the Speaker remembered.
- Good news
 - Shoot Against the Prez - Two winners; About \$16,000 donated so far to the Center for Service; If the president loses, the student wins a scholarship
 - Esports - The status quo of finances is not working, so we have to do something different; We're trying to innovate and stay relevant to drive revenue; Cronkite Memorial didn't drive revenue; Esports has 250 students signed up to participate (this includes current students); Interest from prospective students in KC; Eight administrators from KC school district came to campus and want to sign an MOU with us to help get their esports programs off the ground; Also seen interest from North Liberty and St. Joseph School District
 - Lacrosse - We already have seven players signed; Those are students who wouldn't have come to MWSU otherwise
 - KC Counselor Appreciation Luncheon - Great opportunity to connect; 40 counselors attended; They are excited about changes
- Global Center Opening this week
 - International applicants are up 5%
 - A dedicator recruiter in Asia
- Community Partnerships
 - St. Joseph School District - Early Childhood Center is still in talks; No signed agreement yet; If we can make this work, we can get \$30,000 a month in rent; Puts our College of Education right in Wilson Hall across the hall; Puts parents on campus who may want to come back to school at MWSU; A tenant who would put money into the building with a move in date of January; Trying to make it work, so that we're not spending money
- Need to be positive about the things that are going on - Don't be our own enemies.
- We have cut about a million dollars out of expenses - This is a bandaid. We have increased costs and expenditures that we need to cover, like deferred maintenance.
- *Question: What does MOU mean?*
 - Memorium of Understanding - An agreement

- *Question: There isn't a signed agreement with the city for Wilson. Is there a guesstimate of when people would need to move out to start renovations?*
 - In flux; Wanted us to be out by August, but we pushed it back to January; Possibility of moving in May, and doing construction in the fall semester
- *Question: Is there a possibility to get grants?*
 - Working on that for esports, and some of the moves, like the library/bookstore move; Trying to minimize construction by moving things into spaces that already exist; There is talk of potentially moving the Parking & Security office as well; Putting esports in the bookstore for visibility and excitement
- *Question: Does Cronkite cost us money? Will it continue to cost us money?*
 - Yes; Removed the photo piece in the memorial already; There is a gallery that was created by taking two classrooms, but it's a cost to open and it's rarely used
- Examples of things we're paying for that we should not be paying:
 - Paying money to stock our trout pond (\$2.50/trout)
 - Spending \$20,000/year to someone in this community for their salary, but they are not solely dedicated to MWSU
 - As one institution, we have four memberships to the Chamber of Commerce
- Foundation
 - Donors have given money to the Foundation for specific things, which we cannot take
- *Question: Now that the Chiefs have won the Superbowl, do we know if they're coming back to train on campus?*
 - Confidential response.
- *Question: Once the Center for Service gets up and running, how will the credit hours work?*
 - Goal is to rely on volunteers from the community to staff the Center; In terms of the students, there are certain criteria for service hours to qualify and be validated; Students have 12 months to get 40 service hours in, and then they can "cash" them in for a credit hour; They can then go up to 80, and then up to 120 hours for a total of three credit hours; County has agreed to \$25,000/year to support the Center; Have asked the City for \$100,000/year

Dr. Davenport Report:

- First budget meeting with Darrell Morrison today to talk about budgets
 - Every other institution in the state made tough decisions three/four years, but we did not.
 - The hope was that we would weather the storm and increase enrollment; However, demographics have been against us, so we have not increased enrollments the way we hoped.
 - Example of the contract with EAB - spent \$400,000, but didn't offset the expense.
 - Our budgets weren't based on reality.
- Student labor was \$1.6 million last year
 - We have come to rely heavily on student employees, but we cannot afford that same level of student support.
 - Offices had to tell students they didn't have a job for them after the semester break.
 - We have to make hard decisions because we can't keep going on like we're going.
 - Look at your processes - Reduce the amount of work for staff with processes (for example: seven signatures shouldn't be needed to get something done) to free up time for them to accomplish things that were covered by student staff.
 - What are ways we can reduce our expenses?

- Census date report
 - We are down overall 3.9% YTY this spring.
 - We were down 5% in the fall, so we have made progress there.
 - However, we are 4.3% down in credit hours, which is where we get our revenue.
 - We always know we aren't going to increase by huge numbers in the spring.
- Admissions numbers are not looking positive for the fall
 - 16% down in applications two weeks ago.
 - 26% down in housing applications two weeks ago, but we have moved to 13% down in housing applications.
 - Only down 7% in Griffon Orientation applications right now.
 - One of our key challenges is demographics.
 - We have a higher percentage of students in our region going to college than surrounding regions, but there are less high school students so that number isn't going up.
 - We need a multi-pronged approach to recruitment.
 - Hiring a director for Military & Veteran Center, which will help recruit military students from Fort Leavenworth, etc.

Old Business:

- Minutes approved and passed.

Committee Reports

- *Salary & Fringe*
 - No report
- *Constitution & By-laws*
 - All of the changes passed 83-3, and will go to GAC on February 18th
 - Senator asked if there was any reason given by the three who voted against, but there was no communication made to the committee or the E-Board from those three staff
- *Welcoming*
 - Welcomed ten new staff
 - Charles Przybylski - University Police
 - Kelly Wade - Physical Plant
 - Erik Langston - University Police
 - Lance Kooser - Accounting
 - Christian Konczal - Esports
 - Rashad Howse - International Recruitment
 - Evan Banks - Admissions
 - Megan Raney - Student Affair
 - Rachel Benzing - Athletics
 - Jennifer Stover - Center for Service
- *Election*
 - Debbie Vaughn is replacing Jessica Poet
 - Handout about elections given to senators
- *Grievance*
 - No report
- *Professional Development*
 - Planning to connect with Shauna Hiley with the Center for Teaching & Learning

- *Special Events*
 - Concerned about where to go from here with the budget constraints
- *Advantage*
 - Able to help that extra family with over \$1,500

President's Report – Kathy Kelly

- Need feedback for Shauna Hiley on what kind of Excel sessions
 - Beginner Session
 - Level II
 - Google Drive
 - Collaborate with Human Resources
 - Professional Speaking
 - Banner training

First Vice President's Report – Marissa Steimel

- Budget Report - No expenses this past month

Other Business/Open Discussion/Announcements

- Check your email about the Center for Teaching & Learning sessions - Attend them!

Mark your calendars: Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, in Blum 220