

STAFF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 17, 2006

Present:

G. Bachman, M. Bartholomew, B. Bassett, C. Blakely, S. Etherly, T. Hardy, D. McDaniel, C. Pepperdine, J. Swank

Absent: M. Christensen

Guests: Barb Bassett, Paula Pollander

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Crystal Pepperdine at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting opened with a celebration for Barb Bassett, former Chair of UM-Flint Staff Council. Members of the Council contributed to the celebration by bringing a dish. Barb was also presented with a gift card to AppleBee's and a card signed by all council members to show our gratitude for all of her hard work and dedication over the years.

Council Chair Crystal Pepperdine extended a welcome to all new members and encouraged the current council to promote a positive atmosphere in all that we do. Other topics covered in the Chair's opening remarks included striving to become more active as a group; good attendance; and following through with the goals set as a council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were sent out via email to council members and were reviewed and adopted as received. All minutes from Staff Council meetings will first be approved by council and then sent to Debi Rowden in ITS who will work with our group to keep the webpage updated.

UPDATES

Dearborn Senate Meeting - B. Bassett presented contact information to C. Pepperdine for Bill Romej from the Dearborn Senate. Council members who volunteered to attend the Dearborn Senate meeting were C. Pepperdine and S. Etherly. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. on the Dearborn campus. C. Pepperdine will contact Mr. Romej and confirm our attendance.

Birthday Club - M. Bartholomew reported that the August celebration is scheduled for Wed. August 23rd from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room. Discussions focused on the number of times per year that the celebrations would be held yielded the final decision of the council to (1) continue the monthly celebrations throughout 2006 and (2) effective January 2007 host birthday celebrations on a semester basis. The decision to seek a new direction with the birthday club celebrations was made as a means of saving money and increasing staff participation.

Volunteer Sign-Up - C. Pepperdine distributed volunteer forms for the Welcome Back Picnic on Wednesday, September 27th. Our guest, Paula Pollander encouraged active participation on behalf of Staff Council to show support in recognizing 50 years of UM-Flint.

Back to School Drive - C. Pepperdine provided an update on the progresses made with the collection of items for school backpacks. Individuals still wanting to contribute can deliver your goods to 410 French Hall through August 28, 2006. Mel Serrow will be contacted to take photos of this Staff Council activity.

Staff Council Archives Project- A physical location is still being sought for storage of the Staff Council archives. C. Pepperdine will continue to work to identify a location. C. Blakely and D. McDaniel will continue to work on this project. Paula Pollander mentioned that she still has many Staff Council documents and other materials and will bring them in and give to Clara.

Parking Issues - G. Bachman addressed all of the issues that had been discussed in earlier communications to the Chancellor.

- Open parking on a trial basis this fall - This will not take place. Staff is to continue to park in Harrison Street ramp or behind Hubbard Bldg.
- Student-Employee Parking Permits - An employee with student status must purchase a parking permit as long as any portion of their tuition is being paid by the University.
- Restricted/Service Vehicle Parking- Public Safety has taken measures to address the

ways in which permits for these types of vehicles are issued.

Other discussions were held concerning the make-up of members of the "Parking Committee" that has been identified to address the parking issues brought to the Chancellor by Staff Council. C. Pepperdine will make a request at Chancellor's Advisory meeting that a member of Staff Council be included on the "Parking Committee". Council members were asked to volunteer to be a part of the "Parking Committee". Jenn Swank accepted the nomination and will represent Staff Council once the request from C. Pepperdine has been approved.

Staff Council Webpage- Minutes from council meetings, once adopted will be forwarded to Debi Rowden. The webpage will be updated with pictures and other information. S. Etherly will contact Mel Serrow for photos from Staff Council events to include on webpage. B. Bassett will provide the Council Chair with the updated charter which will be added to the webpage once approved by Staff Council and Assembly.

Potential Projects - Eight suggested projects for Staff Council were presented by C. Pepperdine. As Chair, C. Pepperdine encouraged all council members to take on active roles in various committees on these projects. Listed below are projects that this year's council has agreed to take on.

1. Staff Discounts at ECDC – J. Swank and C. Pepperdine will meet with ECDC Director
2. Blood Drive/Medical Screenings- S. Etherly will meet with the Urban Health and Wellness Center to gain interest in co-sponsorship of screening campaign to be held in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Blood Drive (Ginny July).
3. Presentations/Workshops- M. Bartholomew will check to see what information is available. Efforts will be made to not "re-invent" the wheel and use our time and resources effectively by working with HR and other campus departments and groups.
4. Tuition Assistance Program- C. Pepperdine will speak with HR as a means of collaboration on ways in which Staff Council can help promote the benefit of tuition assistance to UM-Flint staff members.
5. Volunteer Service Credit- Several discussions were held which sparked C. Blakely and D. McDaniel to speak with Service Learning. Staff Council will seek ways to work with Service Learning on ways to include staff in the volunteer service credit program.

The proposal of an Employee Networking System was tabled until our next meeting.

Other Matters - M. Bartholomew will provide the council with a monthly budget summary. B. Bassett presented the council with information on the Environmental Stewardship Committee and its efforts to conserve energy on our campus.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by,
Sandra Etherly
Staff Council Secretary