

STAFF COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2010

The WKU Staff Council met on March 3, 2010 at the Conference Room in the Service and Supply Building. Those present were Cassandra Bailey, Tammi Beach, Diane Carver, April Gaskey, Janet Hall, Wanda Johnson, Cheryl Lewis-Smith, James Kennedy, Chester McNulty, Jennifer Ragan, Retha Spinks, Tammy Spinks and Colby Westerfield. Members not present were Paula Mattison and Darrel Saalwaechter. Guests present: Stephen Rey.

A few suggestions were emailed to the Staff Council Anonymous email address. One email concerned the lights at the Mimosa parking lot. Janet Hall, Staff Council member contacted Ben Johnson. He stated the following: The lights in the Mimosa Lot have been checked on several occasions and are working to the extent they can at this time. Each light pole has one fixture that is illuminated, the others are not. This is due to the fact that the power feed is temporary and not of sufficient capacity to illuminate all fixtures. The permanent power feed is from the new College of Education Building. When this building's electrical service is energized, all fixtures will be illuminated. If there are further questions, I am the appropriate contact. Another issue concerned the Preston Center fee structure. We asked Stephen Rey, Director of Preston Center to this meeting to discuss this issue and to learn more about the center expansion.

Stephen Rey, Director of the Preston Center attended the March meeting. He made the following points:

1. We have had a name change from the weight room to the fitness center.
2. *Increase the amount of equipment in the fitness center - tripled the cardio equipment, doubled the free weights and strength equipment, added a complete line of selectorized equipment for upper and lower body strength, and added a series of machines that will serve our disabled population.*
3. Ribbon cutting is May 3, 2010 at 3 p.m.
4. CSI is software system dedicated to facility management, inventory control, rentals, programs, and services.
5. Memberships - full time students have funded the expansion and renovation project through an increase in their tuition since 2002; first increase in membership fees across the board for part-time students, faculty & staff, retirees, and alumni since 1999; increase is due to the various minimum wage and operational cost increases the department has incurred during this period of time; option for a daily guest pass is now available for all faculty and staff at \$5 per visit upon presentation of their ID Card.
6. Question was asked why the police department pays a lower membership rate than any other faculty and staff member - a fitness incentive program was initiated with the university police department prior to the current director arriving on campus 5 years ago. Currently there are only 3 patrol officers who have chosen to purchase a membership at the Preston Center through this

incentive program. There are 2 members of the UPD who pay a membership through the tier system.

Cheryl reviewed concerns received regarding BSA work schedule issues. Cassandra Bailey reported that she talked with Judy Blankenship and she stated that the 11 vacancies have been filled as of January. There is still an issue with absenteeism. Chester McNulty suggested inviting the new Facilities' Director to a Staff Council meeting along with Judy Blankenship.

The Staff Council Meet and Greet Committee had a conference call. April 21, 2010 will be the date for the Staff Council Meet and Greet from 10:00 – 11:30 at the Faculty House. Refreshments will be served and door prizes given. Invitations will be sent out to staff either by paper or email. There will not be an official speaker. This event coincides with the time in which membership nominations will be accepted for Staff Council. A suggestion box will also be available. We want to encourage staff to attend and meet their staff council members while offering any suggestions and/or comments. An on-going power point slide show presentation will be shown, featuring current and past pictures, information, etc. regarding Staff Council.

Nominations for Staff Council will begin April 12, 2010 and end on April 23, 2010. The election will occur two weeks after the dead line on May 11, 2010. The current and newly elected members will attend the June Retreat.

Chester McNulty, Staff Council Benefits Committee Representative, reported that the Committee approved the post secondary education reimbursement policy hours from 18 to 21 for a year that the Staff Council recommended. The change to the policy will now go before the Administrative Council. It was also reported that Benefits Committee revisited the request to look into adding Qualified Dependent Benefits to our existing benefit plan however a committee vote was taken and further review was denied based on an unsuccessful vote of favor by the majority.

The Staff Council Special Interest Project was discussed. Numerous suggestions were stated: donations to an organization, a tree, a Face book page, or a staff scholarship for books. The suggestion concerning a staff scholarship for books was recommended by April Gaskey and was favorably received. April Gaskey, Colby Westerfield, Retha Spinks and Cassandra Bailey will serve on a committee to further explore this idea as well as prepare a formal project proposal for Staff Council consideration.

The Council received an inquiry regarding department salary adjustments and position re-classifications. It was noted that questions could be directed to Human Resources Director, Tony Glisson.

Our next meeting will be April 7, 2010 at MMTH.

Respectively Submitted

Diane Carver, Secretary