

## March 04, 2015 Meeting Minutes

*Clint Barber\**

*Brooklyn Foster*

*Deirdre Greene\**

*Sara Hutchison\**

*Christopher Jensen*

*James Kennedy\**

*Josh Marble*

*Heather Nicklies*

*Mary Nunn*

*Jan Renusch\**

*Bill Sleeper\**

*Tanya Vincent\**

*Candy Walker*

*Chonda White\**

*Eric Wolfe\**

Staff Council began with a discussion of the recent weather conditions and the e-mail Dr. Ransdell sent out regarding the distinctions between campus closed and classes cancelled. The council agreed it was important to address these issues with the latest winter weather. As a whole we are very thankful for the essential personnel that kept campus running during the snow storm, especially the facilities that worked many hours, shoveling and clearing the sidewalks and roads. The Council appreciates the hard work.

Staff Council then discussed some issues relating to the infrastructure of WKU. With the recent power outage at PFT and other buildings that are in need of repair, the Staff Council hopes that more emphasis will be placed on issues with older buildings on campus.

Next for Discussion were committee updates. Updates were provided by the Legislative committee. This committee serves to discuss new and upcoming bills that are being processed through the house and senate. Any bills that directly affect higher education were discussed and reviewed. A report from the benefits committee reported a large number of employees signed up for HSA plans. Just a reminder in order to main your wellness credits, Tier I needed to be complete by February 15, 2015, and the Tier II requirements must be complete by September 11, 2015. There is a list of the activities you can complete on your wellness portal. If you have any questions or concerns about the new health insurance and benefit package, it is important to contact HR so your concerns can be addressed. Staff council feels that the Benefits committee and HR have done a great job keeping employees informed about the changes and addressing issues when they arise.

Discussion of the WKU Employee Mentor program was next. All new employees who begin employment at WKU are sent a welcome e-mail from Staff Council. This introduces the member to WKU and explains a little about Staff Council. It also invites new employees to team up with a mentor, someone they talk to, meet up with, or correspond with, regarding the new employment at WKU. Staff Council feels this is a great resource for new employees; it is also a great way to start networking. New wording for the welcome e-mail was discussed and will be sent to HR for approval. Staff

Council hopes to have a formal mentor program in place by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions or are interested in being a mentor for a new employee, please let Staff Council know via e-mail.

Due to weather related issues our guest speaker, Dr. Evelyn Ellis has rescheduled to speak at our May meeting.

Staff Council Elections for the 2015-2016 term, will be held in April. We will be sending out additional information about the positions needing to be filled in the coming weeks. We encourage all staff members to nominate anyone who may be interested in serving on the Staff Council.

Staff Council adjourned at 10:45. Our next meeting will be April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Regents Room of MMTH at 9:00 am.

**FYI:** Visit the Staff Council web page at <http://www.wku.edu/staffcouncil/>. It offers a wide variety of information. Click Contact Us to access an anonymous e-mail form where you can voice your concerns, questions, suggestions, and any ideas you would like Staff Council to address.

Please let us continue to hear from ALL staff, via the anonymous drop box, directly to the Staff Council collectively, or to individual members of the Council. We need to know issues you have or believe need addressing so that we can voice those issues for staff.