

*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 our April meeting by discussing Old Business. One of our goals for the year was revamping the mentor program. WKU Staff Council is pleased to announce the New Hire Mentor Program for staff members. Thanks to the generosity of WKU Dining Services, we will be able to provide a free lunch at Fresh Food to new employees who choose to be a part of the mentor program. We are also excited to also provide “welcome baskets” with non-benefits related materials in a new desk-side recycling container. We invite other WKU departments to provide materials to place in these baskets such as pamphlets about your department services, magnets, pens, or other informative marketing materials. We are looking to prepare 25 baskets to start with and will refill as needed. Please send any materials you would like to share with new hires (in sets of 25) to Sara Hutchison, Parking Structure 1 Room 115, DFM or email her at [sara.hutchison@wku.edu](mailto:sara.hutchison@wku.edu).

Our discussion moved on to the upcoming Staff Council elections. The election is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. There are five seats open for election: 1 At-Large Member, 2 Technical/Skilled Representatives, 1 Secretary/Support Representative, and 2 Professional Representatives.

Staff Council then received a few reports regarding committee meetings:

- Campus AdHoc Smoking Committee – Deirdre Greene & Clint Barber will serve on the newly formed campus-wide committee. The committee’s focus will be limited designated smoking areas.
- Budget Council – The university budget is growing, but reallocation of funds will appear as cuts to various divisions.
- Benefits Committee – It was mistakenly reported at the Benefits Committee meeting that Staff Council refused to participate in a survey about the new health program. Rather than refusing to participate, Staff Council felt it was too early to poll and wanted to wait for employees to have significant experience using the new health program. The Anthem Breach is a large concern for the committee.

Staff Council continued our discussion of benefits by focusing on Health Insurance. We understand that the new health program is drastically different from our previous plans. This is a nation-wide occurrence, and individuals must become better educated consumers.

We encourage employees to contact their HR Liaison with any questions/concerns. To find your HR Liaison:

<https://www.wku.edu/hr/hrliaisonnetwork/hrliaisondirectory.php>

We would also like to encourage employees to make use of the e-tools to find the best value for their health care needs. To find these tools:

<https://cas.wku.edu/cas/login?service=https://cas.wku.edu/idp/Authn/cas/benefitfocus.com:sp>

Staff Council discussed an anonymous email regarding the parking changes for next year. We reached out to Jennifer Tougas of Parking & Transportation, and she provided the following response to share with employees:

In regards to the question of "why do employees have to pay to park": It is very common at large University's for those using parking to contribute to the parking system through permit fees. The good news is we have been able to keep our permit fees very low. We compare very favorably to other benchmark institutions and large universities in the state. The Administration is sensitive to the issues raised - employee morale, lack of raises - which is why our permit fees have remained the same for the last seven years. As a department, we

have experienced a growth in demand for our services and increases in maintenance costs while our primary revenues have decreased. We have sought to generate new revenues before turning to faculty/staff for an increased permit fee in order to minimize the impact to faculty and staff.

In regards to event parking: As we're planning for events on campus, we do what we can to minimize the impact to permit holders. We recognize how important the spaces are to the people who count on them being available on a daily basis. However, there are times when the University is hosting larger events, that we must displace permit holders to facilitate the event. When it's necessary to use the spaces for an event, we do our best to provide adequate alternatives and communicate the changes to the University community. The difficulties we've experienced in the last year are a direct result of losing parking inventory over the past two years. We didn't have as much room to host the events as we have in the past and it was painful. And it will be until we're able to gain more parking which the Administration is actively working towards.

WKU vehicles using regular parking spaces: WKU vehicles are allowed to park in all non-reserved spaces on campus.

Vehicles taking two spaces: Please call PTS at (270) 745-2361 when you see vehicles taking up two parking spaces. We will cite as appropriate.

The June Staff Council retreat will be held in Owensboro.

Staff Council concluded with a tour of the Technology Resource Center. Further information is available here: <https://www.wku.edu/it/trc/>

Our May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Regents Room of MMTH at 9:00 am.

Staff Council was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**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.