



## June 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

*Jason Abston\**

*Adrienne Browning\**

*Denise Creek\**

*Jessica Dunnegan\**

*Brooklyn Foster\**

*Deirdre Greene\**

*James Kennedy\**

*Betty Keown\**

*Keith Lancaster\**

*Sophie McAdams\**

*Heather Nicklies\**

*Casey Scruggs*

*Bill Sleeper\**

*Tanya Vincent\**

*Melvin Watson\**

*Eric Wolfe\**

\*--attended meeting

The Staff Council meeting began with an introduction of our new member, Brooklyn Foster. Congratulations to Brooklyn on her election to Staff Council. We look forward to working with her.

Staff Council then took a tour of the newly opened Augenstein Alumni Center. The attention to detail and inclusion of aspects representative of campus as a whole is remarkable. The building was funded by donations from WKU alumni and partnerships with the WKU Foundation and Catering Services. We encourage everyone to visit during normal WKU operating hours to see this magnificent new building. It can be used for events by campus and non-campus members of the community. Please see the website for room availability:

<https://www.wku.edu/alumnicenter/facilities.php>

Upon the conclusion of our tour, Staff Council was pleased to welcome our three speakers to foster discussion of the University's diversity initiatives: Dr. Richard Miller, Vice Provost and Diversity Officer; Ms. Andrea Garr-Barnes, Director of the Office of Diversity Programs; and Dr. Monica Burke, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Affairs and Assistant to the Diversity Officer. Dr. Miller and Dr. Burke spoke to the council on the Kentucky Public Postsecondary Education Diversity Policy. This framework, established under the direction of the Council on Postsecondary Education, outlines eight objectives for the furtherance of diversity by all Kentucky public postsecondary institutions. Failure to meet at least six of the eight objectives could result in the loss of the ability to offer new degree programs, causing diversity to be an issue all members of the university should concern themselves with. Although the university has seen an increase in recruitment and scholarships/financial aid available to minority groups, the retention and graduation rates have seen a decline. The Diversity Enhancement Committee (DEC) has initiated a Minority Faculty-Hiring Plan to aid academic departments interested in filling open positions with minority faculty, and is hopeful that they will be able to establish a similar program for staff members in the next few years. Ms. Garr-Barnes spoke to the council on the Office of Diversity Programs (soon to be the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion). She highlighted the efforts being made to work with all groups on campus to increase diversity, including the Social Justice Colloquium and Diversity Fellow Certificate program. Through these programs, she hopes to foster the development of a shared philosophy for the university, and to increase not only group discussions on diversity, but to also increase self-reflection of all participants. For further information on these topics please visit: <http://www.wku.edu/odp/> and <http://www.wku.edu/dec/> Staff Council thanks Dr. Miller, Ms. Garr-Barnes and Dr. Burke for taking the time to visit with us.

After the conclusion of our lunch recess, Staff Council resumed our meeting with the election of officers for the 2013-2014 year. Officers are as follows: Eric Wolfe, Chair; Keith Lancaster, Co-Chair; Heather Nicklies, Secretary; Jessica Dunnegan, Treasurer; and Casey Scruggs, Webmaster.

Staff Council then moved on to the discussion of committees. The list of all committees can be found on the Staff Council website: [www.wku.edu/staffcouncil/committees.php](http://www.wku.edu/staffcouncil/committees.php) Committee members will be discussed at the July meeting of Staff Council.

Staff Council continued with the discussion of old/new business. The proposed new rule regarding full-time staff teaching limitations will be discussed at the June 12<sup>th</sup> CAD meeting. We will pass along any further information we receive as it becomes available. The Staff Satisfaction Survey is currently being finalized for distribution to staff members.

Staff Council concluded our meeting with the discussion of our 2012-2013 accomplishments:

- Updated Constitution and Bylaws
- Research/Survey of Division of Facilities Management
- Smoking Policy Partnership
- Webpage Update
- Research of Part-time Benefits
- Book Scholarship
- Fall Break Brunch
- Silent Auction

Goals for 2013-2014 will be discussed at the July Staff Council meeting.

Please let us continue to hear from ALL staff, via the anonymous dropbox, 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 serve you better.

Our July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the MMTH Regent's Room at 9am.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 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.

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