

The WKU Staff Council held its April meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2006. Members present were: LySandra Bowles, David Emerson, Barbara Johnston, Jeff Jones, Pat Jordan, James McCaslin, Charles McCoy, Ann Potter, Angela Robertson, Tina Sneed, Heather Stubblefield, Mike Thompson, and Lauri Warden. Members absent were: Patty Booth, Chester McNulty, and Darrell Saalwaechter.

The Tuition Benefit/Discount for Dependents policy was discussed. This year, after implementing the new policy for the first time, it was discovered that less money was available to give scholarships to students in general because a few students with full-ride scholarships had this benefit applied to them, and received a substantial residual check as a result. After much discussion, it was decided that the intent of the Staff Council was not to reduce the number of scholarships available to deserving students, but to ensure that all WKU employees received their benefits. The Council will discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

The possibility of beginning an online, centralized FAQ page to help new staff acclimate to the WKU campus was discussed. The issues of ever-changing information, scope of the information offered, and limited staff to update the page were brought up by Council members. It was determined that the Staff Council would not be able to take on this large-scale project. The Staff Council sponsors a Staff Mentoring committee which is available for newly-hired staff to contact with questions. A link to contact the committee will be placed on the Staff Council webpage for the convenience of those wanting to take advantage of this service.

An update on the Parking Committee's activities was given by James McCaslin in Patty Booth's absence. The Staff Council held a called meeting on March 13 to review various parking proposals and give Patty feedback before a vote was taken by the Parking Committee on which proposal to send forward. At this time, no proposal has been approved by the administration and the Parking Committee continues to meet and work on a plan for permit rates for 2006/2007.

Heather Stubblefield gave an update on the Staff Satisfaction Survey results. The data should be ready to give to Dr. Shoenfelt for analysis within the next week.

Laws concerning exempt status employees were discussed. It was agreed that University employees, even though exempt, are bound by state and federal labor laws.

The Council held a discussion of the practice of hiring Building Service Attendants for six months as temporary, full-time employees without benefits.

Employee raises have been recommended to be 3% on average. The Staff Council discussed raise issues and gave Pat Jordan, Staff Regent, feedback on issues that will be coming up at the next Board of Regents meeting.

The Staff Council website has been updated using the new CMS software. It was noted that the website is fully ADA compliant.

The next meeting of the Staff Council will be on Wednesday, May 3.

The Staff Council wants to hear from you. Do you have a question, concern, or comment? You can now e-mail the Staff Council: StaffCouncil@wku.edu

The Staff Council Minutes, Constitution, and By-Laws are posted on the Staff Council web page at: <http://www.wku.edu/staffcouncil>