

The WKU Staff Council held its March meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Members present were: LySandra Bowles, David Emerson, Barbara Johnston, Jeff Jones, Pat Jordan, James McCaslin, Chester McNulty, Ann Potter, Angela Robertson, Darrell Saalwaechter, Heather Stubblefield, and Lauri Warden. Absent were: Patty Booth, Charles McCoy, Tina Sneed, and Mike Thompson.

James McCaslin introduced the new Staff Council member, Darrell Saalwaechter, and welcomed him to the group. Darrell will fill this position through the June meeting.

A response from Tony Glisson to the Staff Council inquiry regarding the option to use "Not Applicable" as a response on the staff performance evaluations was read to the Council, which indicated that the current form was designed with input from a Staff Council subcommittee, and a change to the form so soon would not be beneficial. After discussion, the members agreed to not request a change be made at this time.

The Staff Council has been notified by Human Resources that at the request of the Council, a notice will be sent out as a staff-all e-mail at the appropriate time this summer, so all employees will be aware that they have the opportunity to request a mid-year review of their work performance.

Lauri Warden and Heather Stubblefield gave an update on requests for mentors by new staff employees to the Mentoring Committee. It was explained that several times information on the Bowling Green community or on networking on campus has been requested in addition to regular mentoring. Council members pointed out that the Staff Leadership Institute is a good way for employees to gain training and meet people from all across campus. Other volunteer activities, such as assisting with the graduation ceremonies, give the same opportunity.

A request for the Staff Council to consider proposing a change to the current policy of vacation accrual for rehired employees was presented. After discussion of the various costs, benefits, and issues, the Council members chose not to pursue action on this request.

Ann Potter asked for an update on the part-time employees' benefits proposal. James McCaslin reported that he suspected the proposal would be considered during upcoming budget deliberations.

The Staff Council election of new representatives will be held online on April 20, and the Staff Regent Election will be held online on June 13. A computer station will be manned by council members from 4:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both of these dates in Facilities Management for those who do not have other access to computers. All WKU staff employees are encouraged to run for these positions and to vote in both of these elections.

An updated form for the Staff Satisfaction Survey was presented by Heather Stubblefield and Jeff Jones. Proposed new questions had been reviewed by Dr. Betsy Shoenfelt, who gave the council feedback on them. After discussion of the survey as a whole, it was

announced that the form would be finalized and distributed within the next two weeks. The Council requests that completed forms be returned no later than March 31. The data will be analyzed by Dr. Shoenfelt and graduate students under her supervision, and results are expected to be received by early summer.

The ORP white paper and meeting on March 2 was discussed. Representatives from the Staff Council will attend and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Jeff Jones reported that the Staff Council website had been updated recently.

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>