

STAFF ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 13, 2008

MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Colleen Abt, Marissa Arlet, Theresa Benedek, Annabelle Clippinger, Rich Colwell, Rick Fabean, Libby Hilf, Monika Losagio, Jonah Yan McAllister-Erickson, Maggie Mrozinski, Anna Sangl, Michael Semcheski, Anita Sorrells, Gwen Watkins, Pam Weid, Dewi Wong

Members Excused: Barbara Adelman, Tammeka Banks, Joe Brun, Mary Ellen Carey, Patti Chioda, Lynne Johnson-Christy, Angela Coldren, Janet Coulter, Christine Crawford, Alisha Shane-Cuniff, Marilyn DiPaolo, Ken Doty, Brittany Guthrie, Carol Hodgkiss, Betty Homonai, Beth LaRotonda, Mike Laughlin, Marsha Lee, Gloria Limetti, Iruaku Brodie-Mends, Barbara McMullen, Peggy McNeil, Babs Mowery, Martania Penn, Fred Schiffer, Joyce Selden, Sherry Viann Shrum, Kathleen Stell, Dana DiVirgilio-Thomas, Kathryn Trent, Janice Stankowicz-Welch, Barbara Zischkau, Steve Zupcic

Members Unexcused: Mary Fisher, Denise Goppman, Bill Heller, Danielle Colbert-Lewis, Benjamin Pilcher, Bobbi Jo Rosol, Elaine Springel, Crystal McCormick-Ware, Rose Wooten

Guests: Ron Frisch
Human Resources

Peter Hart
University Times

Karen Gavula
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Closed Session: 12:00 PM

Open Session: 12:15 PM

- Upon duly made and seconded, the minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting were approved and accepted.

Officers' Reports

President - Rich Colwell

- No new policies or procedures were reported for the month of January.
- A meeting of the UPBC Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2008.

- Rich welcomed the new members. Rich then asked all members in attendance to introduce themselves.
- Gwen Watkins was congratulated for receiving the Chancellor's Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community.
- Rich asked the Steering Committee Chairs to give only a brief synopsis of the items their committee is working on and not a detailed report.

Vice President of Steering - Gwendolyn Watkins

- Gwen will be attending her first UPBC meeting on Thursday February 14, 2008.
- The new member orientation luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2008. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the new members to the Chairs/Co-chairs of SAC Committees and explain the responsibilities of each committee.
- The topic of the Spring Assembly for 2008 will be Staff Mentoring and Career Development. It will be a mentoring program which will include a panel of five staff members who have moved-up to higher-paying jobs at Pitt. The assembly is scheduled for April 9, 2008 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Pitt-Kennywood Day is scheduled for Sunday, August 31, 2008.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications - Angela Coldren

- Due to illness, Angie was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Treasurer – Carol Hodgkiss

- Carol was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Committee Reports

Benefits - Steve Zupcic/Sherry Viann Shrum

- Steve is on medical leave and was unable to attend the meeting.
- In Steve's absence, Rich Colwell explained the proposal to restore the policy covering re-employment after involuntary separation from the University. This policy was changed in 2007. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by SAC's Steering Committee. However, due to a lack of a quorum, the proposal could not

be voted on. The proposal will be resent via e-mail to SAC members and a vote will take place at the March 12, 2008 SAC meeting.

Elections - Betty Homonai/Jennifer Welton

- Betty was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Governance – Dana DiVirgilo-Thomas

- Dana was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Grievance - Carol Hodgkiss/Rich Colwell

- One inquiry was received.

Marketing and Communications - Anita Sorrells

- The Marketing and Communications Committee continues to work on the SAC Newsletter.

Program and Planning - Anna Sangl/Gwen Watkins

- Gwen said that each year Program and Planning selects an organization to provide assistance to for the holidays. This year the committee provided blankets for the Lemington Community Services. Nearly 200 blankets were collected, which in some cases were the only gift some of the seniors received. Gwen thanked Anna Sangl for showing the committee how to make the blankets. A decision was made at the last Program and Planning Committee to again hold a holiday blanket drive. A decision by the committee has not yet been made as to which organization will receive the blankets. The purpose for the committee making the announcement early was because they heard people say if they had known about it earlier they could have been making blankets all year. Further information will be forthcoming.

Research and Information – Jennifer Welton

- Jennifer Welton was unable to attend the meeting. Michael Semcheski, a member of the committee, said the Research and Information Committee is in the process of compiling a list of contacts at peer institutions that have similar staff councils.

Safety and Security - Fred Schiffer/Rich Colwell

- A meeting of the SAC Safety and Security Committee was held on Thursday, January 31, 2008.

Salary and Job Classification - Pam Weid/Barbara Adelman

- The Salary and Job Classification Committee is in the process of preparing the annual letter to Human Resources with recommendations for fiscal year 2009 salary pool increases.

Regional Reports

- Karen Gavula, Secretary of the Greensburg Staff Association Council, was in attendance at the meeting. She reported that her group voted to begin soliciting donations to establish a \$10,000 “Endowed Fund for Student Resources”. The fund has been established to provide financial support to a student for prizes, books, lab fees, travel or other educational expenses.
- The Greensburg Staff Association Council is looking for advice on setting-up a Staff Concerns Committee similar to the Pittsburgh’s Staff Association Council Grievance Committee. Karen said this committee would support staff members during the multi-step grievance procedure. Rich Colwell volunteered to provide advice to the Greensburg campus on setting-up this committee.
- Elections of the Staff Association Council Officers will be held in April 2008.

Other Reports

- No other reports were given.

Old Business

- No old business was reported.

New Business

- No new business was reported.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Future Meeting

- The next meeting of the Staff Association Council will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 in 1175 Benedum Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Coldren
Vice President for Marketing and Communications

