

MINUTES OF CSU STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 6, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer Alberti, Kat Cannella, Theresa Conklin, Terri Conner, Amber Dees, Annette Evans, Ketih Grier, Jessica Gonzalez-Armstrong, Crystal Jones, Laurie Jones, Karen Kinard, Dana McGlon, David Mitchell, Christine Murphey, Patsy Redmond, Mark Ridley, Michele Scott, Libby Smith, Eric Van Bibber, Bethany Yandell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Amber Dees presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Cuts

Dr. Hackett presented a detailed description the recent budget cuts, explaining how much was cut, why, and what it means for the state university system. Dr. Hackett reported that in March President Mescon and Tom Helton approached the BOR to present a proposed budget that would help incur the costs of salary adjustments by returning to formula funding. It was approved and the budget was approved to increase.

Dr. Hackett explained that originally the projected economic increase for the state would be approximately 5.6%. The budget for CSU based increase of state funding on this projection. This did not occur and budgets had to be cut. Initially a 3% immediate cut was declared and as the process began there grew an anticipation of an additional 2% cut to come in the future. The immediate cuts were made to offset catastrophic budget cuts at the end of the year.

In a power point presentation Dr. Hackett showed that the growth in the state economy had only been approximately half of what was expected. Ergo half of state funding was cut. It has become evident that in order to improve the budget at CSU enrollment must increase. Overall, CSU has grown in enrollment every year. The last decrease in enrollment was in the 1990's which coincides with the change from quarter to semester terms.

Dr. Hackett then reported the main reasons for the budget were: 1.) the expected 5.6% state economic growth is only at approximately 2.5% ; 2.) tax initiatives given for energy projections were expected to be \$50K and are now at \$100K ; 3.) Medicaid deficit projected to be \$300K to be taken out of rev is now at \$400K ; 4.) \$100K for retirement system in which 1.7K was allotted for CSU.

It was stated that 4 full-time staff and 1 part-time staff were cut and other positions were empty.

Dr. Hackett mentioned a rough proposal to help buffer future losses. The plan includes a campus-wide commitment to growing enrollment, beginning the budget process in September, utilizing a budget advisory committee similar to the salary committee, having a transparent budget, making the budget dashboard-friendly, and have growth in understanding of how to read budgets. Dr. Hackett also proposed that the university look at budgeting 5% to something that CSU could live without in the event that there are more cuts to prevent catastrophic loss.

David Mitchell questioned if the in-state tuition is locked within a certain range and could it be used to help compensate the budget cuts. Dr. Hackett clarified that it could only be adjusted by allowing groups of students to come in for a special rate and there are a limited number of waivers.

It was stated that changes in the budget this year are to prepare for next year and if CSU can allot a rainy day fund for the future it will help buffer against new permanent cuts. The voluntary retirement program will help open positions that could potentially be filled at a lower rate. Distance learning could potentially grow revenue and may be considered more. Bethany Yandell questioned if there are any goals being set to grow graduate school enrollment. It was stated that there are no specific goals stated at this time and it should be addressed to the graduate council. There are hopes that the strategic plan will help grow revenue in these and other areas.

B. One CSU

David Mitchell reported that One CSU is the on-campus sustainability committee and are welcoming new volunteers. He reported that the first meeting will be on September 14 in the Azalea Room in the Dining hall.

C. Space Mission

Amber Dees and Jennifer Alberti announced that November's meeting will be substituted with a team building exercise at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center on November 1 at 10:00 am. Those wishing to attend were asked to sign up in advance.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Account Balances

Kat Cannella reported the following current balances in the accounts. Kat also noted that the balances do not reflect money collected from the Boston butt sale. It was reported that \$670 was deposited from the sales and \$440 were withdrawn to pay Mike & Ed's for the Boston butts.

Book Scholarship – \$130.16 Foundation - \$51.56

B. Toner Recycling

Amber reported that toner recycling has raised \$70 thus far and reminded everyone to send their toners cartridges to the warehouse for collection.

C. Scholarship Applications

Amber Dees reported that so far 2 applications for scholarships had been turned in. The goal is set for 3 recipients.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amber noted for all committee members to meet independently before the next staff council meeting and opened the floor for reports.

A. WELCOME COMMITTEE (Laurie Jones)

Laurie reported that the next welcome tour would be on September 27 and encouraged members of staff council to volunteer to help with the tour.

B. STAFF SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE (Laurie)

Laurie reported that there are several nominations received for the award and they are being analyzed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. State Recognition (Amber)

Amber announced that the state staff council now recognizes CSU Staff Council. Amber also announced that the state-wide conference is being held October 2 and 3 at Georgia Southern.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mail Room Changes (Jennifer)

Jennifer announced that Randall Bramlett is now the director of Mail Services and asked that any and all questions, concerns, and recommendations be sent to him via e-mail or by telephone.

B. International Week (Christine Murphey)

Christine announced that CIE will be hosting International Week September 17 – 21 and there would be a variety of events.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Alberti