

MINUTES OF CSU STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 4, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer Alberti, Nino Bradley, Kat Cannella, Theresa Conklin, Janet Crane, Amber Dees, Nicole de Vries, Jessica Gonzalez-Armstrong, Alysia Johnson, Ruthie Jowers, Karen Kinard, Patricia Lassiter, David Mitchell, Mark Ridley, Carolyn Rockeymore, Lashica Thomas, Eric Van Bibber, Bethany Yandell,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Nicole de Vries 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. FINANCIAL REPORT (Kat)

CSU Account - \$541.76

Foundation - \$1954.04

Kat reported that the CSU account showed increase from the return on our toner and small electronics recycling programs. She also reminded the council that the uses for this money are to benefit all staff equally, i.e. by offering a book scholarship open to all staff. Jenny reported that an official report from the toner company had been posted to the staff council website that reflected the details of what had been recycled. Nicole also reminded the council members that the small electronics is for personal, not CSU items.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WELCOME COMMITTEE (Nicole)

Nicole reported that a welcome day had been hosted for incoming staff, but it was overlooked to request members from Staff Council to be present.

B. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Kat)

Kat reported that Human Resources would be hosting a Lunch N Learn on April 24 in Schuster at 1:30. The topic to be discussed would be social networking.

Kat requested that with the remaining \$1454 to be left in the foundation account that the council consider offering 2-3 scholarships for potentially the upcoming Summer/Fall or Fall/Spring semesters. The floor was opened for discussion of how many to award and when to award them. It was noted that the scholarships are awarded via a check from the foundation to the student and that there is a GPA requirement. Nicole asked if the council should consider amending the scholarship guidelines to cover materials and supplies and not just books. Kat stated that she would check the regulations. Motion was made to award 2 in Fall / Spring with the possibility of awarding another in Spring should funds be provided. Motion passed.

C. FACULTY / STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (Eric)

Eric reported that the next staff appreciation event would be held on April 19 from 4:30-6:30 in the plant operations conference room. The food expenses totaled to \$230 because Aramark offered to cover half of the charges for food. The invitations were to go out the following Monday. The cost for invites totaling to \$73 and the vinyl appreciation banner totaled to \$54.00. This brought the grand total to \$357.

D. FUND RAISING COMMITTEE (Bethany)

Bethany had no report at this time, as there were no plans at the time for another fund raising event.

E. STAFF SERVICE AWARD (Nicole)

It was reported that the next nominations were to be turned in between April 15th and 19th. Members of the council were encouraged to nominate others on campus. The last recipients for the 3rd and 4th quarter were named. The recipients were Beate Maxwell and Mark West.

V. PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL REPORT (Nicole)

Nicole reported that the proposed budget for the upcoming year had passed the house and senate and awaited the Governor's signature. The budget for CSU includes \$3.9 million to renovate Howard Hall. It was reported that the state is not looking to build new buildings at this time, but rather renovate and reuse current buildings.

It was also reported that there is an offer in writing for the sale of Courtyard II. CSU will use these funds to build new dorms on campus. Meanwhile, the purchasers will maintain the property and the dorms for two years to

allow CSU time to build the new facilities. It was also noted by Nino that staff and faculty are encouraged to keep this information from becoming public to the students in order to prevent unnecessary concern from the student body.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legacy Banquet

Karen Kinard offered a few words of gratitude for Staff Council making it possible for members to attend the event. She mentioned what an excellent time that was had by all and recommended that we keep the event in mind for next year to attend again. The reported cost of attending was \$70 for a table of 8.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. State-Wide Planning Committee for the 2013 GA Staff Council Conference (Nicole)

Nicole explained that this is an event where staff councils from all 31 institutions come together for team building, conferencing, etc. She announced that Mark Ridley and Dana McGlon have volunteered to be on the state committee as CSU is to host the event in 2015. Notice was given that a subcommittee will need to be formed in 2014.

B. Astra Users (Nicole)

Nicole announced that she met with Abraham from UITS to discuss the previously stated issues with Astra. Another meeting was soon set to take place to gain knowledge about scheduling space on campus for users of Astra. Nicole made note that there will need to be a meeting with users to discuss these issues and ideally there will be continual meetings to discuss common issues. She also mentioned that Abraham is on the Astra Advisory Board and will pass along all information gathered at these meetings. Response times were to be the topic of the next meeting.

C. CSU Day (Kat)

Kat reported that the upcoming CSU Day was to be held on April 24 at 5:00. The main event would be the CSU baseball game along with tail-gating, food, games, and an after-party. She then opened the floor to discuss the possibility of Staff Council participating in the event by having a booth. Nicole volunteered to head a team to work a crazy hair booth.

Loan Forgiveness (Nicole)

Nicole offered information about the loan forgiveness program for those who work for non-profit organizations. If you qualify you can pay on your loans for 10 years and then the remainder will be forgiven. Nicole stated concern for CSU employees not being made aware of this information. The floor was opened to discuss solutions for presenting this information to all staff on campus. The following ideas were discussed.

- Can Financial Aid promote this information?
- Ensure that the information is given out in Welcome Day packets.
- Can we insert this information in the staff handbook?

Amber volunteered to check into the staff handbook and send out information to the rest of Staff Council. Mark would contact Financial Aid. Nicole volunteered to contact the advising team and Center for Career Development.

D. Sustainability Fair (Nicole)

Nicole announced that the OneCSU Day sustainability fair would be on April 11 at the clock tower. She asked if the council would be interested in having a table at the fair to discuss the toner-recycling program. David volunteered to request a table and Eric and Karen would draft a bookmark to hand out at the fair.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Staff can pay \$39 each semester to park in the parking deck. Nicole would meet again with Dr. Sheeks and Chief Drew to further discuss issues and would ask if it could be payroll deductible.
- Cody's Run would be held April 13.
- Nino announced that he would be working with Anne Brown to advise for Habitat for Humanity and would be looking for faculty/staff volunteers. The fee is \$10 a year and the first build to be held April 27.
- State Staff Council to be held May 1.

IX.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Alberti