

MINUTES OF CSU STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 7, 2010

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Kat Cannella, Mary Johnson, Angela Jones, Crystal Jones, Laurie Jones, Jay Knape, Nicole Lee, Bernard McCrary, Marlena Mobley, Christine Murphey, Mack Ragan, Patsy Redmond, Kimberly Riley, Libby Smith, Liza Smith, Rita Snell

Excused Absences: Heather Ammons, Patti Brooks, Joy Davis, Tabitha Kinnerson, Debby Mayo

II. CALL TO ORDER

Liza Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Book Scholarship - \$1,645.63

Foundation - \$517.05

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WELCOME COMMITTEE

Laurie reported that the Welcome Tour in December went well, there were many attendees. The next tour will be scheduled for the end of March or beginning of April.

B. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Bernard reported that 3 book scholarships were awarded. He will contact the awardees via e-mail immediately.

C. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

D. STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Nicole reported that she is working on a cancer awareness presentation for February – “Hearts for Hart”. She is currently awaiting responses from breast cancer awareness representatives.

E. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Christine reported for Debby that she is planning on having another garage sale in the spring. She also stated on Debby’s behalf that, if anyone is willing to take over as chair of this committee, to please contact Liza. Debby has had many other responsibilities and feels that she has not been able to dedicate enough time to this committee. However, she will continue as chair if no one else is able to take over.

F. STAFF SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

Laurie reported that Dierdre Brown, Teacher Education, was the second quarter winner of the Cougar Pride award. Nominations are currently being accepted for the third quarter.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

No report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

Gina Sheeks, VP for Student Affairs, and Dana Larkin, Asst. Dean of Students, presented information from the Alcohol & Drug Education Task Force on the Tobacco-Free Campus initiative. Every two years CSU is required to submit a report on drug and alcohol education. This report is tied to the funding that CSU receives. Previously there were pockets of efforts all over campus regarding these issues. Dana has been put in charge of all of these issues and is streamlining them into one committee. The main proposal is to create a tobacco-free campus. This initiative has been presented to and is supported by the president’s staff. Today they are asking for input from and support of Staff Council.

Wellness is a very important issue for CU faculty, staff and students and this initiative is a part of that. An educational campaign is currently in force. Reasons to adopt this initiative include: eliminating health risks, saving money on facilities maintenance, preparing students for workplace tobacco-free environments, reducing pressure on students to start smoking. The numbers of tobacco-free universities nationwide and in Georgia are steadily increasing. Smoking and tobacco use cessation programs will be put into place. A specialist in this area, Courtney Thomas, has been hired at the Student Health Center.

The task force will be focusing on compliance rather than enforcement in order to avoid the more negative aspect of the term "enforcement". The Dean of Students office is to advise repeat offenders. Disciplinary actions will consist of courses, community service and education versus punitive enforcement.

Rita asked how adult offenders (staff who have smoked for many years and who are unable to quit, for example) would be handled. It is possible that smoking in personal vehicles or in one designated area on campus may be established. Nicole suggested checking with local businesses on their non-smoking policies, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield. Libby asked what to do about members of the public who violate the policy. Signs would be posted at building entryways and they could be directed to return to their personal vehicles or to put out their cigarettes in a nearby ashcan.

Student housing areas would continue to have gazebos at which students and visitors can smoke. This would be for safety reasons as students are not allowed to smoke inside their living quarters and it would be unsafe for them to walk any distance at night in order to get to a remote designated smoking area.

Presentations on the new policy will be offered to all groups on campus. The plan is to implement the policy by fall 2010. The task force will be looking into obtaining grants for this initiative. The Student Health Center will offer cessation products. Laurie indicated that staff could use their flex dollars in order to purchase Nicorette gum for example.

Gina Sheeks asked for input from Staff Council on having a designated remote smoking location versus allowing individuals to smoke in their personal vehicles. She also asked for volunteers (staff who are smokers) for input.

After the presenter left the meeting, Jay made a motion for Staff Council to support the policy. His motion was seconded. Liza stated that she would e-mail Dana with this statement of support as well as with questions regarding implementation of the designated smoking areas.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No report.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nicole thanked members for their support of the 30th Avenue Pre-School Christmas Initiative. She passed around information for the "Hearts for Hart" campaign. She also stated that the Disney "Give a day, get a day" promotion allows people to donate their day to a children's organization.

Kat announced the Continuing Education Fitness Blitz 11-14 January. Various types of exercise and dance classes will be offered each day during that week. Cost is \$10 per class or \$29 for 4 classes.

Bernard announced that Homecoming will be held 8-13 February with many activities planned. Information will be distributed campus-wide by 21 January. The Alumni Association is working on bringing back graduates to take part in the activities.

He also announced that the Martin Luther King Day observance will be held on Thurs., 21 January at 12:30pm.

Liza announced that the Athletics Department is hosting a "Pack the House" night on 13 January.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Murphey