

MINUTES OF CSU STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2009

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Kat Cannella, Joy Davis, Angela Johnson, Laurie Jones, Jay Knape, Nicole Lee, Dana McGlon, Marlena Mobley, Christine Murphey, Mack Ragan, Patsy Redmond, Kimberly Riley, Libby Smith, Rita Snell

Excused Absences: Patti Brooks, Crystal Jones, Tabitha Kinnerson, Debbie Mayo, Bernard McCrary, Liza Smith

II. CALL TO ORDER

Kat Cannella called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted with one correction. Dana McGlon was listed as being both present and an excused absence.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Book Scholarship - \$1,645.63

Foundation - \$492.05

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WELCOME COMMITTEE

Laurie stated that the welcome breakfast and tour for new employees will be held on 7 December. She will meet with the subcommittee immediately after this meeting to discuss.

B. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Kat reported that she e-mailed her department about the book scholarship opportunity after the last meeting in order to spread the word. Nicole stated that she submitted an application but has not received a response. She will check with Bernard to find out if he received it, since he has more than one office location at the moment. The receipt and submissions process may need to be refined.

C. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

D. STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Nicole reported that she was unable to promote the "Hearts for Hart" fundraiser/breast cancer awareness event. She is working on finding a contact at Columbus Regional Hospital and also finding a mobile mammogram unit to come to campus. Kat suggested having another staff appreciation event before the end of the year. After the last staff appreciation event Nicole asked for input on staff council from staff campus-wide. Feedback indicates that staff feels they are not represented and that staff council is not taken seriously.

E. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Christine reported for Debby that the garage sale for 14 November will not be taking place. Additional fundraising events, along with the Arts and Crafts fair will be discussed in future.

F. STAFF SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

Laurie reported that the awardee has been selected, but not yet announced or notified. Kat asked whether or not all nominees are informed that they were nominated. Laurie stated that nominees used to be recognized, even if they were not given the award. She will consider doing so again. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dana introduced Wanda Jenkins from the Clean Air Act Campaign.

Ms. Jenkins thanked staff council for the opportunity to present information about the group and what it does. It is a Georgia non-profit group based in metro-Atlanta focusing on improving air quality and traffic congestion. She stated that the Chattahoochee Valley is on the brink of non-compliance with ozone and smog problems. CSU is one of the first local partners with this organization, has been on board for approximately one year and has reached the 10,000 mile mark in miles saved. This means pollution has decreased by 10,000 pounds. This group gives CSU faculty and staff the opportunity to earn incentives to change to a clean commute through biking, walking or carpooling. There is a "cash for commuters" program where employees can log their miles online and receive rewards. Employees can also register to find a carpool partner. If 15 carpools are logged members can receive a \$40-\$60 visa gift card. Troy Keller and Pat McHenry are the most active contributors so far. Ms. Jenkins stated that we could set up information tables around campus, for which she could provide marketing materials, and we could also spread the word via e-mail, since she wants to increase our efforts and results. It was also suggested that we hold a competition between campuses to increase participation. She is available to speak at events and to departments.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. BARGAIN BLOG

Jay stated that this, along with the new PR news site, has a launch date of January 2010. The IMPACT will also be online, so the site will be for all campus news and events. A demo is to begin next month.

B. 2009 CONFERENCE

Kat reported that the conference was awesome and made her realize the impact that staff council has on all campuses so that non-members have a voice. Members at other campuses have similar issues as those on the CSU campus. Nicole was named liaison for the USG and staff council blog and was nominated co-web administrator. Nicole stated that we could use the blog for meeting information, input, votes on subjects, etc. Nicole stated that the conference also put the furloughs into perspective for her in that some institutions have no structure on how they need to take their furlough days. She also stated that some institutions have not had staff council meetings for two years due to the economic situation. She also found out that we have a liaison directly to the BOR. The next conference is to be co-sponsored by several universities. These meetings are a good networking opportunity.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. DECEMBER HOLIDAY POT LUCK

Christine stated that this event is scheduled for 3 December at 11:30 am in the Spencer Event Hall in the International House. She passed around a sign-up sheet for people to bring side dishes. Staff Council will once again purchase the meats. She will e-mail all members asking them to sign up to bring a dish.

B. SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

Marlena passed out information on this initiative and stated that a survey is to be sent out in the next week or two regarding smoking demographics. She encouraged departments to complete the survey, which results will be processed by the subcommittee. Issues such as enforcement on non-smoking in student housing and in personal vehicles will be addressed by the subcommittee.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurie stated that open enrollment for benefits ends on 20 November. Also, the state charitable contributions fund has been kicked off. She encouraged support of the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. She also stated that November and December furloughs are in place. Bi-weekly employees will have two furlough days which fall during one paycheck, but this will be changed. She also stated that the holiday social is scheduled for 9 December.

Laurie confirmed that leave statements are still due by the 13th of the current month due to the furlough days having to be reported as well. After December this will hopefully return to normal and leave and sick days can be reported the month after they are taken. In the meantime, an amended leave statement can be submitted if any changes occur after mid-month.

Christine announced that International Education Week is 16 through 20 November with events being held all week including: opening ceremonies with the Mayor issuing a proclamation and president Mescon opening the week's activities, films, lectures, global dialogues and other events.

Laurie responded to a question regarding the S.A.S.S. group – it will resume meeting in January.

Mack stated that there is a group in UITS that meets to exercise if anyone would like to join. Kat stated that he should contact her to get the group connected with one of the pilates or yoga instructors. Mack also asked whether or not he could start a bible study on campus, if the issues discussed apply to work. Laurie stated that the group may meet on campus if it is on their own time, not during their work hours and if it is not advertised as being related to UITS. A suggestion was made to join with student organizations that meet on campus for religious purposes and to use them to partner the meetings.

Kat stated that, in order to increase awareness of staff council on campus, all members should report agenda items and meeting results back to their departments. She also suggested that we send an e-mail to all staff with new announcements and information. Nicole will work on creating a blast e-mail to all.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:01am

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Murphey