

Winthrop University
Staff Conference Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018
Dina's Place

Staff Assembly Present: Kaye Burks, Jessica Cassel, Nicole Chisari, Penny Cotter, Maria D'Agostino, Julia Fockler, Amanda Hackney, Wes Love, Kelly McGinnis, Kirk McSwain, Alicia Marstall, Jackie Concodora, Susan Sauvigne

Absent: Becky Best, Lori Tuttle

Staff in attendance: Approximately 50

Meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Maria D'Agostino, Chair

January meeting minutes were approved.

Katie Price made an announcement reminding everyone of the rebranding event Thursday, February 22 at 11:15 at Digs. A sample of the Starbucks drink "Garnet & Gold Rush" will be available.

President Mahony then reported that he had met with the legislature last week and recurring fund requests are looking good. The Post & Courier report last week makes us look financially unstable, that is not the case. Winthrop is actually generating more income than expenses right now. He will make a budget presentation in April. We have also decreased our spending. Also, out of state students generate more income than in-state students do.

President Mahony answered questions submitted by staff:

1. The President answered the question of making up snow days. He agrees with the person asking the question and feels that the time should not be made up but state law requires this.
2. How to retain good employees that are leaving. He reported that our turnover rate is 13.8% and generally, in the public sector, it is 18%. The job market is better so folks are leaving for better jobs or more pay. The baby boomers are aging out of their job; changes in organizations cause turnover (WU police department is an example). We are hoping that the Competitive Compensation committee's work will help keep employees here.
3. (was combined with #4). The questions were regarding the employee engagement/satisfaction survey. The survey is being done by an outside firm so all emails will be confidential. Therefore, there will be no way to trace the answer to a certain person. Also the answers will not be changed to make the University look better. The outside agency would not allow that to happen.
5. Someone asked if employees could be given "community service" hours, so that employees could volunteer or assist with children's school events. Due to state law, we cannot do this.
6. Chief Scoggins answered this, regarding the students crossing Oakland and not using crosswalks and walking between the cars stopped at the light. Chief stated that the campus is very safe and we have had only a few of car v. pedestrian accidents. The police monitor all the roads around campus. A pedestrian safety brochure online is being looked into. He was asked if we could post an officer out on Oakland during the rush hour. He stated that was a good idea and would look into it.

7. Lisa Cowart answered this question regarding time sheets and possibly having them auto-fill for holidays. She said there is no way Banner can do this.
8. Lisa also answered this question about the time clocks, Wi-Fi and no desks at the Green House. She stated all non-exempt employees use time clocks; most do not have individual work stations. The supervisors then enter the time for each of their employees. The supervisor at the greenhouse has a phone with Wi-Fi and a desk in the back area.
9. The campus map that is on-line prints very small and is hard to read. In addition, the buildings are not in alphabetical order, which is confusing, could this be fixed. Jill Stuckey answered the question and Nicole Chisari presented the answer. The font is 10 pt. and set up so it can print on letter size paper.

Noreen Gaubatz, Director of Assessment made a presentation on the NSSE survey that was sent to Students. She is asking for all of our assistance in reminding the students to complete the survey. This survey is the National Survey of Student Engagement. The results show the quality of education and engagement of the university. The survey has been done by 1600 institutions and has reached 6 million students. The survey is for freshman and seniors (seniors are determined by how many class hours they have completed, not by their enrollment years). The sophomores were also asked to participate this year to do a residential living survey.

Standing Committee Reports:

Staff Feedback – this new committee was described and anyone interested should contact Kirk. This committee will assist in following up with questions or inquiries made on subjects discussed at Staff Conference meetings.

Elections & Nominations – Becky Best was absent, Julia presented their report. They have several new members. At the March meeting, this committee will be highlighted. The announcement that Jessica Cassel is leaving the University so there will be nominations/election process to fill her position.

Media & Communications –Kara reported that the next Staff Stuff would be out March 1. There will be some new features in the next edition.

Professional Development – Goldie reported that the next Professional Development workshop will be held June 27 & 28. More information to come.

Campus & Community Involvement – Pam reported that they are currently planning the Come See Me event and an April food drive. Volunteers are needed for Come See Me, please let Pam know if you can assist.

Recognition Committee – Miranda announced that there was not a Staff Member of the Month, so January/February will be combined next month. Keep the nominations coming.

Tina Vires then announced the “Staff Superhero of the Month”. The winner was Beverly Holbrook.

Nicole & Goldie made a presentation highlighting the Professional Development Committee. They are seeking new members. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month in 114 Crawford at 3 p.m. The first Professional Development event had approximately 130 attendees. Please let them know if there is something you would like to see presented.

Maria then introduced the new hires. This month we had 9.

Questions & Comments:

Next Staff Conference will be at Dina's Place on Tuesday, March 20 at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.