

Winthrop University
Staff Conference Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017
Dina's Place

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

Absent: Jackie Concodora

Staff in attendance: Approximately 90

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

August meeting minutes were approved.

President Mahony reported that the state budget requests were submitted Friday. They included several small items, the building of a new library was removed but renovations to the current library was added. Enrollment numbers are currently down but they will not have final numbers until October. The members of working groups for the strategic plan have been contacted and asked to participate. There will be more information on that during the October 5th State of the University address. In reference to the University closing during the hurricane, he understands some folks were upset but he listens to the emergency personnel and felt as though we could be open. The decision to cancel evening classes decided late, due to his error. When power around campus became an issue that is when the decision was made. He also stated that the "experts" around campus could better answer some of the questions given to him, so he will be asking other members of the campus community to come and offer their input on some of the questions.

1. Lot closing notifications, why are we notified sometimes but not always?

Interim Police Chief, Ken Scoggins, reported that their office attempts to notify everyone as soon as possible regarding lot closings. Occasionally a last minute event may happen, which results in being unable to send notifications. They have no control over those situations.

Why was the price of the parking decals increased?

Also in reference to the increase in the parking decals, this is the first time in approximately 16 years that the price has increased. The additional \$2 charge for picking up your permit is due to staffing issues. One person is handling the decals, as well as their regular duties. The extra fee was to deter folks from coming to campus police to pick up their stickers.

2. Does WU have any plans to discuss the events at Charlottesville and how do we handle requests from hate groups?

Jeff Perez reported that all attempts are made to keep groups off campus that may cause issues to the safety of our students/faculty and staff. Sometimes the folks who are speaking are not the issue; it is the people they attract. Any outside group must sign a contract with Neal Miller so that we are aware of the issues that may arise. The leadership and social change group will open up lines of communication on campus.

3. Could we have directory signage made for campus visitors?

Neal Miller agrees that more signage is needed on campus. Since we are currently rebranding, this item will be reviewed once that process is completed. We did not want to put up signs and then have to change them after the rebranding is complete.

A question was asked about the international flags that were on campus and why they were removed. President Mahony stated that the flags were not in good condition, so instead of taking down the ones that were damaged, they decided to take them all down. A place to display them inside a building is an idea. There are no plans to replace them on the road.

Evan Bohnen, Vice President for Institutional Advancement was introduced by Maria. Evan and his wife relocated here 45 days ago and have 11-year-old twin boys. His mindset for his department are set in three goals.

1. Goals for the university; 2. Goals for students; and 3. Goals for his staff.

If we increase the WU endowment, we can increase scholarship dollars, he wants to make WU the first choice for students, lessen the debt load for our graduates and provide stability for his staff and department, develop relationships and collaborate with F/S on these goals. He understands that this will not be sprint but a marathon race to achieve these goals and be successful.

Ken Halpin, Athletic Director, was introduced. The Eagle Club is the scholarship fund for our student athletes. He presented the benefits of joining the Eagle Club. His goal is to lessen the financial burden on the University, establish a long-term vision for athletics and generate more money by bringing in outside events to the coliseum.

Standing Committee Reports:

Elections & Nominations – Becky Best had nothing to report.

Media & Communications – Kelly McGinnis stated the next newsletter would be out on October 2nd. Highlights will include Who are WU?; milestones; Staff member of the month and a spotlight on Staff Assembly Representatives.

Professional Development – Aramark may be providing a customer service training for our staff. Once the details are finalized, they will be shared. The banner is “What you love about being a Winthrop Employee” will be displayed at the Welcome to Winthrop event this month.

Campus & Community Involvement – The September 15th Food Truck Friday was a success and \$1,000 in food truck bucks were handed out. Pam appreciates all the volunteers and even WU folks who stepped up to help even though they had not signed up to volunteer. Upcoming events are the Pink Out Day to support the fight against breast cancer in conjunction with the mobile mammogram unit. The food/toiletries/cleaning supplies drive will begin at the end of October and go through November. We will assisting Project Hope and Pilgrim’s Inn. Do not forget to wear your Halloween costume and win bragging rights. Do not forget to take pictures and send them to Staff Stuff for publication in the newsletter.

Recognition Committee – We had 16 nominees this month and Willie Aiken was the winner. Miranda made the presentation.

New Staff Hires – Introductions- Lori Tuttle introduced eleven new hires.

Questions & Comments:

Reminder, it is now flu season. Flu shots are available at Health Services at a cost of \$25. Mackey Family Practice will be here in October and the shots will be free for all employees under the state health plan.

Next Staff Conference will be at Dina's Place on Tuesday, October 17th at 2 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m., so everyone could attend the Ice Cream Social.