

Staff Conference Meeting

Whitton Auditorium

June 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm

Members present: Grant Scurry, Maria D'Agostino, Niki Behr, Laura Little, Kelly Shelton, Jeanie Faris, Kelly McGinnis, TJ Carney, Rebecca Best, Rosanne Wallace, Johnathan Brabson, Janell Stevens

Members absent: Jill Simpson

Approximately 88 staff members attending (includes assembly members)

Grant Scurry, who is now serving in the role of Chair for the Staff Assembly after Margaret Williamson's retirement, opened the meeting with allowing the staff assembly to introduce themselves to the conference, providing their department and if they serve as an office for the assembly.

Comments from Dr. Boyd

Dr. Boyd, Acting President, continually thanks everyone for their hard work and effort during this transition and reiterates her confidence in Dr. Mahony for this position as he is the right person to take us to the next level. Winthrop University is comprised of good people who work hard and it was easy to be a leader to those during her term as president. She plans to continue in the role of provost now and hopefully get back in the classroom in the next few years.

Employee of the Month

TJ Hyatt announced that there were 15 nominations for 13 people and the Employee of the Month for May is Chris Rousseau. The nominations can be submitted on the website nomination form or submitted by paper. She clarified one question received regarding the requirement for the nominator's name on the form which is to ensure that someone is not self-nominating.

TERI Program Update

Dayna Johnston provided an update regarding the TERI program which is where an employee can begin receiving their annuity from retirement and still receive a payroll check. If you were employed with Winthrop before July 1, 2012 and are eligible for retirement, you might be eligible. The program will not extend passed June 30, 2018 as it

has been discontinued. Once you are in the TERE program and your time has expired, Winthrop does not make you leave your employment as some other state agencies. You may continue to work without the TERE program benefits but those are reviewed on a case by case basis. An employee can be in the TERE program for five years, however since the program will expire in 2018 and new participant would only have 3 years to receive this benefit. If you are interested, there is information on our website and also on the South Carolina Retirement System website.

Question: What percentage of Winthrop employees are participating in the TERE program as it relates to retaining current staff members? How many employees would we be losing at the time of retirement if the TERE program is no longer available?

Lisa Cowart will research and provide that information at a later date.

Winthrop Day at Carowinds

Carowinds is offering a discounted day for the Winthrop community. It will be on Saturday, August 29th, 2015. Tickets can only be purchased online at www.carowinds.com/save

Username: eagles

Password: day

It is open to all faculty, staff, students and alumni. One dollar from every ticket will come back to Winthrop as scholarship dollars. The discounted ticket is only good for that day. Please share with friends and family so that we can receive scholarship dollars back to our students.

Standing Committee Reports

Elections and Nominations

Kara Traverse was elected to assume the open position in Academic Affairs.

Media and Communications

Shelley Jones encouraged staff to submit pictures of your department and coworkers for the Facebook page. They are up to 97 likes and would love to reach 100 soon. She wanted to remind everyone to use the links embedded into the newsletter to learn more information on the featured stories. They are always looking for new members so please feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you would like to join.

Professional Development

Brett Best provided updates that he is conducting a survey of local and regional universities to inquire on their efforts for promoting professional development. Please feel free to solicit ideas through the committee or the feedback form on the staff assembly website.

Campus and Community Involvement

Pam Varraso provided an update regarding their scheduled meetings that will be held on the second Wednesday of each month in DIGS 258. They will be working on programs and what their mission will be for the upcoming year. Some ideas currently being considered include; continuing Pink Out day as an annual event, tacky Christmas sweater contest, annual food drive, and a contest to encourage departments to decorate their offices for the current year's homecoming theme.

Recognition

The Recognition committee would love to have additional volunteers to participate and would really like to have someone from facilities join their committee.

Other Business

Annual Report

The Annual Report will be presented at the August 18th conference to allow more people to attend and include those staff members that are 9 month employees. The bylaws were amended by unanimous vote to include this change. Margaret Williamson left a rough draft that Grant Scurry is in the process of completing to outline the events and issues we encountered this past year. It is an essential to document what we do for the staff and for the university and we feel is a key piece in gaining representation with the Board of Trustees. We have not lost focus on that goal.

Feedback Form

We would like to encourage staff to use the feedback form on the staff website. Those emails go directly to Grant Scurry (Chair) and Maria (Vice Chair). The form will be updated with the option for the submission to be discussed or not discussed at the public conference meetings.

Meeting Minutes

We will be presenting the meeting minutes and summaries on a more official capacity and they will be voted on at the beginning of each meeting so you will see this item in the agenda each month. They will then be placed on the website.

Questions/Comments

A conference attendee suggested that agenda include the names of the people presenting or providing feedback during the conference so that staff members will know who to contact if they wanted more information.

Grant will continue to provide the agenda the Friday before the next week's meeting so that employees can plan to attend based on the subject matter. Also there will be a reminder send on the day of the conference.

Staff Conference Attendees appreciated the passing of the microphone so that those in the back could hear and would like that practice to continue.

Next Staff Conference: Tuesday, July 21, at 2:00pm, in Whitton Auditorium

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm