

**Winthrop University**  
**Staff Conference Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 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, Jackie Concodora

Absent:

Staff in attendance: Approximately 90

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

September meeting minutes were approved.

Maria took a minute to thank President Mahony for the wonderful lunch provided to staff today in Thomson Cafeteria. It was enjoyed and appreciated by the staff.

Questions submitted by staff:

Interim Police Chief, Ken Scoggins, answered the first question submitted by a staff member regarding why WU does not conduct emergency drills in the academic buildings. Fire drills are held twice a year in all residence halls. In his 16 years at WU, there have been no fire drills in the academic buildings. Due to the disruption that the drills cause, they were stopped by a previous administration. Ken stated that he would discuss this with the current administration.

Maria answered the next question regarding the nomination process for Staff Assembly with feedback from Human Resources.

Staff assembly representatives are nominated by staff on campus and are elected to their positions by the staff in their division.

- We will definitely review the election process and discuss how we might be able to encourage more diverse nominations.
- We will also explore ways in which we can encourage staff who represent the interests of diverse groups to serve on the elections and nominations committee and to advocate on their behalf.
- Please know that our goal is to always make staff feel inclusive and we welcome and appreciate the comments and suggestions submitted to the assembly.
- Lastly, we encourage all staff to get involved and participate. There are many opportunities to serve on committees or to help with the work of the committees.

So by increasing overall participation will ensure that we are better serving the interests of all.

President Mahony added that he would like more staff involvement in the nominations. He would encourage all staff to participate in Staff Assembly. Maria added that all staff is invited and more like everyone to feel included.

A question was submitted about the trees that were newly planted on campus and they appear to be dying. Nicole answered this question in place of Chris Johnson who was not in attendance. The Board of Trustees approved a tree plan for the entire campus. The new trees were planted in April, which is late in the year to be planting trees. A total of thirty-nine trees were planted; ten of those died and some were unhealthy when they arrived. They are watered. There will be additional trees planted to replace some that were removed.

President Mahony then responded to the question regarding Ken Halpin's report last month regarding faculty/staff basketball tickets. The questioner said free tickets are a small benefit, considering faculty/staff have not received raises. His response was that the athletic department is attempting to be self-supportive and not depend on University funds, which would result in paying for parking and ticket fees, as well as other options. President Mahony thinks it is an idea worth exploring. He understands that many tickets are given away, the mindset needs to change that the tickets are not worth anything. He believes that WU is the only Big South Conference School that actually gives away tickets to faculty and staff.

Gloria Jones, Dean, University College spoke about identifying an "at risk" student. She stated that students today are not prepared for college. Some identifying traits of an at risk student are: walking by themselves, holding head down, in distress, missing classes, anti-social behavior, not engaged or prepared, sleeping a lot and being physically ill. As a university, every one of us has a responsibility to our students. If you see a student with an issue, please send their information to [atrisk@winthrop.edu](mailto:atrisk@winthrop.edu). University College receives these email, they will then have the RLC speak to the student, if they live on campus. If they do not live on campus, they have other means of contacting the student, such as have Miranda contact them. Students are then assisted by either a resource on campus, such as Health & Counseling Services or sometimes an off-campus resource.

Jeffrey Bellantoni, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts was then introduced. He has been at WU for four months. He stated that the staff is the strength of the university in his opinion. He has 600 undergrad, 50 graduate students and 59 faculty/staff members in his college. All of their programs are accredited. The college is very event heavy, holding over 100 musical presentations each year. His future goals for his college is to work with other colleges on campus to develop new areas. They are researching a possible textile design, a fashion/apparel program and a possible Bachelor's Degree in music technology.

Standing Committee Reports:

**Elections & Nominations** – Becky Best had nothing to report.

**Media & Communications** – Summersby was not in attendance, Kelly McGinnis asked that everyone send their "Pink out Day" pictures and Halloween pictures to [staffstuff@winthrop.edu](mailto:staffstuff@winthrop.edu) so they can be added to Staff Stuff. Also, keep sending milestones. She also asked that if someone has a topic that they want to see in the newsletter or something that they want information on to please let us know. This newsletter is for everyone.

**Professional Development** – Goldie was not in attendance, Nicole Chisari that Aramark is assisting with a customer service professional development seminar on November 13th. There will also be a networking event on October 26<sup>th</sup>. An email will be coming with this information.

**Campus & Community Involvement** – Pam was not in attendance, Amanda Hackney reported that this Friday is another Food Truck Friday was a success and food truck bucks will be handed out. Pink out Day is coming as well as Halloween. Please contact Pam or Amanda if your department would like bins for the Food Drive.

**Recognition Committee** – Miranda explained the nomination and voting on the Staff Member of the Month process. We had six nominees this month and Karen Miller, College of Education, was the winner. Miranda made the presentation.

Brittany Neely, Campus Relations Coordinator, reported that the Ghost Tours would be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 10 pm. The cost is \$5. The admission cost goes towards our scholarship fund. It is rated PG-13 and smaller children may get scared.

Aramark generously donated a \$50 Gift Card for on-campus dining locations. The winner of the card was Brittany Pigford.

Charlie McDonald generously donated five \$10 gift cards from Groucho's and names were drawn for these as well. The winners were Maureen Reavis, Evelyn Cameron, Stephanie Coyle, Craig Sauvigne and Marielle Hinson. Thanks for Charlie and congratulations to our winners.

Questions & Comments:

Next Staff Conference will be at Dina's Place on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.