

SUU Staff Association Minutes
Thursday, September 12, 2013
Registrar's Conference Room

Attendance: Julie Larmore, James Loveland, Brandon Rasumssen, Ron Cardon, Sheri Lopez, Nellie Lee, Sonn Berrett, Barbara Rodriguez

Absent: Mindy Benson, Paula Lambeth, Daniel Bishoff

Call to Order: Julie called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed all.

Items of Business

- I. Approval of minutes: Julie called for motion to approve August 8, 2013 minutes, Barbara made the motion, James seconded. As a follow-up to the minutes:
 - a. Julie reported that the discussion of possible changes to the tuition waivers discussed last month has sort of died. Julie decided to work on getting Policy 5.56 revised as quickly as possible so it would force a review from Staff Association prior to changing the tuition policy.
 - b. All in attendance approved the minutes.

- II. Treasurer Report (Handout) – Julie
 - a. Budget Status Report as of September 12.
 - b. Julie noted the 560.00 being reimbursed by UHESA has still not been received. She will talk to Bruce Barclay about getting that.
 - c. James added that the expenses for the Opening Social have not posted yet: food will be approximately \$1,800, door prizes were around \$200 and costs for the microphone will be around \$12.00
 - d. Barbara noted that we have received notification that Jim Crouch may be submitting his retirement papers and be gone at the end of the fiscal year. If that happens, we need to be sure that the pre-payment for bereavement plants is accounted for. If someone no longer will be able to provide those, we will need to make arrangements for those funds to be used for something comparable.

- III. Committee Reports -
 - a. Events – Barb
 - b. There have not been any meetings or notifications of upcoming meetings.
 - c. Parking – Mindy was not present. However, it was brought up that the Journal reported 269 parking tickets were given out the second week of school.
 - d. Training – Brandon reported that he is scheduled for a lot of training sessions, but he has not been to any meetings since the first one so could not comment further.

- IV. Review of Opening Social
 - a. Everyone felt it went well. We did not get a head count, but Julie estimated there were 280-300 in attendance. Comments were:
 - i. It was good having the committee eat first so they could take on assignments and be ready to complete them before others arrived.
 - ii. We need to talk to Chartwell's next time and ask them to leave the food out until we are done in case there are late arrivers.
 - iii. There did not seem to be as many centerpieces this year. Next year they may put in an element of competition to encourage participation in this aspect of the Social.

V. Welcome Wagon –

Barbara visited Jacob last month, Ron has not visited Chad Bell yet and Paula was not present to report. New hires this month are:

- a. Katrina Dransfield—Theatre Arts & Dance (Sheri Lopez)
- b. Wendy Roberts – Headstart (Sonn Berrett)
- c. Kevin Empey – Cashier (Nellie Lee)

Julie noted that HR sent a really long list that she will assign next month and let the new employees acclimate to campus a bit this month.

VI. Staff Professional Development Requests

- a. Julie gave a history on the forming of the committee for review of applications to this fund. When it was developed, they had about one week to set up forms, select a committee, etc. It was done very quickly and has just operated with the same committee and procedures ever since. Julie proposed that the applications be reviewed by the Board, rather than always having to revamp another committee to review them. The Board all agreed that would be fine, at this point in time. If it got too cumbersome, we would revisit this.
- b. Procedures from here on will be: 1) The current committee will finish up application review and approval for the round that just ended in September. Ron will thank the previous committee for their service and discontinue that committee. 2) Starting with the December round, Ron will send out the applications when they are received to everyone on the Board for review. We will then review and make funding determinations at the next Board meeting.

VII. Policy Updates – Julie

- a. Policy 5.56 - Policy Development Authority

Julie asked for input on the added statement. It was suggested that the wording be:

Staff Association: Staff Association Board will review all new and/or proposed changes to staff and professional employee policies, benefits, and leave. Staff Association Board also may recommend new policies or policy revisions.

Julie will send the proposal forward as amended.

VIII. Legislative Process

- a. UHESA Day at the capital has been determined. We will be going on Thursday, Feb 6. Julie encouraged as many as possible to mark their calendars and plan to attend.
- b. There had been discussion about having our campus Legislative Day earlier in the year, she will talk to Linda Liebhardt, who has agreed to continue as our campus legislative liaison, to contact our state legislatures and set this up for some time in November—after the elections on November 5th.
- c. Julie also encouraged us to come up with some primary concerns and other issues/questions to present to the legislators when they are on campus. For instance, it seems that compensation is always the number one concern, but it would be really good to be prepared with an idea on how to come up with the funding resources to make additional salary compensation possible.

Ron stated we need the legislature to see the importance of continuing to fund higher-ed and not passing us up, thinking that they can raise tuition to meet higher-ed needs. That raising of tuition basically becomes a tax on students and we can only tax students so far, particularly when we are a state that believes taxes should be low. We also need to get the message across that higher-education is the largest employer in the state of the Utah and is an important and powerful cog to the economic vitality of the state. Utah provides economic incentives to businesses and higher-ed should not be passed up when other state agencies/departments are receiving funding increases.

IX. Presidential Search Update -

- a. Julie reported that the first review of applications date was moved to September 15. The committee will conduct a paper review next week.

Motion to adjourn by Barbara, Sheri seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:55.