

STAFF CONFERENCE
JULY 19, 2016

Grant Scurry called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Minutes were approved.

New Institutional Advancement staff assembly representative was introduced: Lori Tuttle, executive director of the Alumni Association.

PRESIDENT MAHONY shared some university updates: retention rates are up for students; taking working group plans for unveiling strategic plan to Board of Trustees in August 22 meeting, then present to campus next month; looking at committees on campus and thinking of which ones could be created; also looking at F/S events and how to go about doing some of them differently.

For his Q & A session:

1. Will we have cheaper dental plan: No plans to change the dental plan because that comes down from the state. Winthrop does not negotiate that plan.
2. How about more salary increases: The 3.25% salary increase from the state was a good step, although tuition increase dollars are used on our end to absorb that. **Dr. Mahony hopes more helpful measures (like the \$200,000 surplus from earlier this year) will be done in the coming years.**
3. Why don't we know about people getting new positions, rule changes, etc.: Bigger, institutional-wide changes are shared with community; lots of small changes only affect one or two departments; so much email bombardment that some things are lost in shuffle; want better ways to get in touch with campus.
4. Any **restructuring** plans: None off the top of his head. Rethinking positions and the duties that go along with it without adding staff, like the public events office. T.J. Hyatt asked if this included redundancies, and he said yes.
5. How to assist with strategic plan: Everyone can fit into it in different ways. Find a way to help out and decide what role you want to play. Every opportunity is one for recruitment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Elections and Nominations – N/A
- Media and Communications—8/1 summer issue
- Professional Development—Tom Injaychock asked for members.
- Campus and Community Involvement—Future events, including the Winthrop Night at the Farmer's Market and Food Truck Friday, were mentioned.
- Recognition—July 31 deadline for nominations.

Charlie McDonald received Staff Member of the Month.

Staff Feedback:

*Grant Scurry will welcome new students at Convocation on behalf of staff.

*Staff Assembly has been asked to share news and updates on Board of Trustees newsletter—positive development.

*Will list staff members of the month on webpage.

*A Staff Assembly member will be appointed to attend each Board of Trustee committee meeting - another positive development.

Someone asked about FLSA updates. Lisa Cowart (HR) said HR staff is working on a plan to roll out the FLSA information to people as well as how it will go down.

Grant Scurry adjourned at 2:38 p.m.