

Staff Assembly Summary

7/7/15

Polly Ford Conference Room, West Center

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Grant Scurry, Maria D'Agostino, Kelly Shelton, Kelly McGinnis, Niki Behr, Laura Little, Rebecca Best, Jeanie Faris, Kara Traverse

Members absent: TJ Carney, Johnathan Brabson, Janell Stevens, Jill Simpson

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 2nd Assembly meeting by Kelly McGinnis, seconded by Laura Little.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Welcome

Kara Traverse is the newest elected member for Academic Affairs and joins us for her first Assembly meeting.

Committee Updates

Elections and Nominations

Nothing to report

Media & Communications

Kelly McGinnis will be the staff representative for this committee going forward. Maria provided an update that the next meeting will be July 23 and the next newsletter will be going out on August 1st.

Professional Development

Nothing to report. Brett Best is currently collecting information from other schools. Laura Little will be contacting another committee member, Tom Injaychock, in order to serve as interim chair until Brett Best is able to take over as Committee Chair.

Campus & Community Involvement

This committee is up to 9 members. They have calendared their next meetings and the share drive is working well to provide ideas and get discussions going.

Recognition

There are 43 nominations under review for the month of June. One concern mentioned is that a group was nominated and they were not mentioned. There was some discussion as to whether group nominations could be considered. Niki Behr will look into that issue.

Blue and White Friday debrief

Background – TJ Hyatt and Jessie Williams noticed on Facebook that South Carolina was participating in BLUE and WHITE Friday on June 26th to honor the victims of the Charleston shooting. They started a conversation with interested parties for approval to get the Winthrop community together to do something in honor of this grassroots event. There was participation all across campus with the support of the Campus and Community Involvement Committee, University Relations and Printing Services. Even though it was a quick turnaround, the event was a great success with over 250 people gathering to honor the Emmanuel 9, by signing the Palmetto Flag cards, and wearing blue ribbons on their wrists and lapels. Thanks to those that contributed their own resources and time and to those that attended to make this event happen.

President Mahony's support

President Mahony included the Staff Assembly on his first day at Winthrop University by reaching out to Grant Scurry and Maria D'Agostino to state that he was looking forward to working with Staff Assembly during his administration. He realized the value of the staff contributions at a prior institution through the staff senate at Louisville. The Chair and Vice Chair will meet with the president on the second Tuesday of each month. He will also be in attendance at our Staff Conference meetings for the first 10-15 minutes to allow for questions and comments.

Keys to representation

As the Staff Assembly continues the conversation for pursuing staff representation with the Board of Trustees, Dr. Boyd stated that it is important to show proof and documentation of how the Staff Assembly is supporting the institutional mission of Winthrop University. During the next meeting with the president, Grant and Maria will ask his opinion on the best course of action to achieve representation with the Board of Trustees. The Staff Assembly believes it will be a good next step to have each of the standing committees come up with a mission and objective that focuses on the support of Winthrop University and align with the current goals of the institution. Grant Scurry outlined three objectives from the University's strategic action plan that we can center our focus and efforts around.

- Recruit and retain highly qualified and productive faculty and staff by providing competitive compensation and supportive work environment.
- Foster a workplace culture characterized by communication, collaborative decision making, and civility.

- Invest in the professional development of faculty and staff.

Staff Assembly Feedback

Retirement Contributions – an anonymous email was received in reference to the timing of the email that was sent to the campus regarding retirement contributions increasing on our next paycheck which was in the next few days. The staff assembly recognized the inconvenience of the timing. As a brief explanation, the institution is usually waiting on time sensitive information from the state regarding the final number of the required contribution. Two things to point out; 1) employees were notified at the beginning of the year that a change will be happening later on in the year regarding retirement contributions and 2) the timing of this information is not isolated to Winthrop as other agencies are also waiting on this information and provide the information close to the paycheck that it affects as well. Grant Scurry will work with HR to see if they will be able to provide more information at the next conference.

Employee of the Month Nominations – an anonymous email was received to point out that at some point it would be preferable to not provide a certificate for each of the nominees.

- put the names on the presentation (and not hand out the certificates individually) while they are announcing the selected Employee of the Month.
- read the names and not the descriptions
- continue the PPT with the adjectives and phrases as a collective point
- present the EOM at the end of the conference so that staff members are encouraged to stay for the whole meeting
- keep the naming of the employees and certificates as it might be a highly anticipated moment to be included and nominated

Niki will take the suggestions to the committee and discuss options and possible changes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.