

**Winthrop University**  
**Staff Conference Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2017**  
**Dina's Place, DiGiorgio Campus Center**

Staff Assembly Present: Becky Best, Nicole Chisari, Jackie Concodora, Penny Cotter, Maria D'Agostino, Amanda Hackney, Lori Tuttle, Kirk McSwain

Absent: Wes Love, Kelly McGinnis, Kaye Burks, Alicia Marstall, Susan Sauvigne, Julia Fockler, Jessica Cassel

Staff in attendance: Approximately 54-57

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

Members acknowledged approval of the minutes from the November Staff Assembly and Staff Conference meetings.

Chair Maria D'Agostino acknowledged receiving one question and two comments. She let the audience know that the question, which pertained to Athletics salaries, would be directly addressed by Human Resources to Athletics staff. Staff Assembly would try to address the other two comments, which pertained to facilities management, at a later date.

President Mahony shared a few updates:

- Donors may no longer receive a tax donation, according to chatter at the state level. He is unsure how this would affect fundraising
- Applications for spring and fall 2018 are up. The new online programs haven't started enrolling yet, which could increase applications and enrollment.
- The search for various vice presidents on campus—finance and business, student life, etc.—is still underway.
- The RFP for a food service vendor is up. The university is looking into a seven-year option with 3-year renewables.
- He shared that the new website and rebranding initiatives would be forthcoming.

P.N. Saksena, new dean of the College of Business Administration, shared information about himself and his goals for the college. The vision includes being the "best college in the region with a laser focus on student success" with a mission of "providing a transformative education through strategic partnerships." He has established various advisory boards through the college.

Audience questions included if faculty/staff could use the EAP program to take courses in the new online MBA program.

Saksena said he hopes for a clearer direction for the college in the spring in terms of newer courses.

Standing Committee Reports:

**Elections & Nominations** – The committee will work on increasing diversity.

**Media & Communications** – The next edition will hit inboxes on Feb. 1.

**Professional Development** – Planning for the summer 2018 conference is underway. Looking into a Jan. 31 TED Talk event.

**Campus & Community Involvement** – A total of 5,491 pounds of food was collected in 2017. The Christmas Cookie exchange on Dec. 13 was also a success.

**Recognition Committee** – 11 nominations were submitted.

Staff member for November 2017 was Laura Ramsey.

Jackie Concodora was named the Staff Advocate of the Month.

New Staff Hires – Lori Tuttle introduced new hires Jessica Hudgins, Amber Jolly, Vernon Sprouse, and Brian Woodfork.

Questions & Comments:

LeeAnn Pounds mentioned an upcoming retirement budgeting session set for January.

Someone asked about when the new intra-campus communications policy would go into effect.

The next Staff Conference will be Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. in Dina's Place.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.