

Staff Conference Minutes March 15, 2016

Grant Scurry called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Becky Best introduced newest assembly member, Julia Fockler from Financial Aid.

President Dan Mahony gave a very informative university budget presentation. Some highlights: no structural fund imbalance—everything is covered; state appropriations have gone up a little, but could fluctuate down; tuition has increased 43% over the last few years, direct inverse of state appropriations; benefits costs have gone up, but not unusual; addressed “myth” of how 100 more students would help. Several things to be noted in the future for the budget. Response was very appreciative of the transparency.

Lisa Cowart covered the new Fair Labor Standards Act requirements, which would bring exempt employees who frequently work overtime up to at least a salary threshold of \$50,400, if they are making less. Winthrop has 145 exempt employees who are less than this threshold. To bring them all up would cost the university \$1.6 million. More likely, HR and the affected offices would assess these employees and move majority over to non-exempt, in which they would fill out a timesheet and be eligible for comp time.

Carrie Whitesides shared info on Winthrop Day at Carowinds, set for Aug. 27. Discounted tickets are \$37 and include parking.

Nicole Chisari, shared information on Winthrop Night with the Charlotte Knights, set for April 29. Tickets are \$17.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nomination/Elections: Becky Best stated that 7-8 positions will be up for re-election soon, which she is currently working on.

Media & Communications: This committee is looking for additional members.

Professional Development: Additional members are also being sought for this committee. Potential professional development opportunity to come next month.

Campus and Community Involvement: The 2nd food drive set for Spring. First-ever Winthrop sponsored tent at the Come See Me festival located in the VIP section next to Winthrop baseball field will take place on Saturday, April 23.

Recognition: The staff member of the month for February is Claire Weikle

Staff Feedback

Walter Hardin explained reasons for building temperature changes that take place on late Friday afternoons and early Monday mornings.

Brick Memorials: looking into feasibility of sponsoring memorial bricks for employees who pass away while still employed by the University.

Grant Scurry shared the budget modeling session times.

Questions/comments: Tracy Holbert asked about staff assembly term limits

Next Staff Conference is April 19, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.