

Winthrop University
Staff Conference Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2017
Whitton Auditorium

Staff Assembly Present: Becky Best, Kaye Burks, Jessica Cassel, Nicole Chisari, Jackie Concodora, Penny Cotter, Maria D'Agostino, Julia Fockler, Amanda Hackney, Wes Love, Kelly McGinnis, Kirk McSwain, Alicia Marstall, Susan Sauvigne, Lori Tuttle

Staff in attendance: Approximately 60

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

July meeting minutes were approved.

President Mahony was not able to attend the meeting, so Debra Boyd filled in and answered questions. The first question was regarding the possibility of erecting a storage facility on campus for use by the Winthrop community. Her answer was that it would be difficult to determine the size or location on campus. Other issues involved the insurance, security, sufficient rental fees and someone to manage the facility. It sounds like a great idea but not a feasible idea.

The second question was regarding the Schools.com rankings that did not include Winthrop in the top 10. Is there a reason for concern since prospective students and parents may use this? She reported that all rating systems look at a variety of criteria. These rankings weigh heavily on postgraduate income and salaries and since WU does not have a law, medical or pharm school, that would cause us. We focus on things that give students good experience. More people pay attention to U.S. News & World Report. Every one of us is a representative of University. We are all the best representatives of University. We are not concerned with this.

Topics also discussed were the new cars on campus. These are leased vehicles from the state and we are on an 8-year rotation schedule.

Monday, August 21st, WU will be handing out glasses to view the eclipse starting at 1 p.m.

Dr. Mahony will be giving the State of the University address in October. He is also developing groups to monitor strategic plan/goals.

Travis Ambrose from Aramark then introduced himself. He began at Winthrop in June. Aramark is now promoting more healthy and local alternatives. They will add/subtract items as needed. Travis would also like feedback from the campus community, positive or negative, so they can improve their services. He announced Thomson would now be open until 8:30 p.m. for dinner. The new menus are online. The catering menus will be updated as well.

Patrice Bruneau also spoke on IT updates. This summer they updated classrooms in Kinard, installed new computers in Owens and added WIFI in Thurmond. Mandatory cybersecurity videos will be sent out in October. The new webserver scans all emails and attachments now for viruses. PDF files sent from campus to campus are not scanned only files sent from off campus are scanned and they are scanned once, even if sent to multiple persons. This scan could take up to 1 minute, so be patient. IT will now be requiring us to change our passwords every 90 days. Patrice suggested picking a phrase

instead of using upper/lower case and numbers/symbols. You will need to change your password on all your devices. You will receive a reminder 14 days before you need to make the change and then again at 7 days.

Karen Jones then reported that on July 17th our five-year report for SACs was approved with no follow-up required. This is very rare and she thanked everyone for his or her contributions to this.

Nicole then presented our Annual Report for 2016-2017. Maria D'Agostino, Chair thanked Grant Scurry, former Chair for his assistance in the preparation. The full version is on our website.

Standing Committee Reports:

Elections & Nominations – Becky Best had nothing to report.

Media & Communications – Summersby was not in attendance, Kelly McGinnis stated nothing to report at this time, next Staff Stuff will be coming mid-August with a full newsletter on September 1st.

Professional Development – Goldie reported on August 22nd, they will have a banner that they are asking all staff to sign. The banner is “What you love about being a Winthrop Employee”. This banner will be used to welcome new staff to WU.

Campus & Community Involvement – Pam reported that the first Food Truck Friday would be held on September 15th and then again on October 20th. Reminder that WU Id's are required to receive the Food Truck Bucks. Please let Pam know if you can volunteer, if you do, you receive \$10 in the bucks. The volunteers are checking ID's for the persons purchasing alcohol at the event.

Recognition Committee – We had nine nominees this month and Jerry Fussell was the winner. Miranda made the presentation.

New Staff Hires – Introductions- Lori Tuttle introduced seven new hires.

Questions & Comments:

The winner of the Carowinds tickets was Ronda Collins. She received two tickets to WU Day at Carowinds on August 26th.

Maria reported that our next Staff Conference meeting would be held in Dina's Place on Tuesday September 19th. Immediately following the meeting, we will be having an ice cream social in Richardson Ballroom.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.