

**Staff Conference Meeting Minutes
Whitton Auditorium
September 15, 2015**

Grant Scurry, Staff Assembly Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Grant acknowledged the approval of minutes and reminded everyone that minutes from both Staff Assembly meetings and Staff conference meetings were available on our website.

Comments from Dr. Mahony

Dr. Mahony briefly discussed the many meetings he's been to in Columbia, and locally regarding Knowledge Park. Currently, the Knowledge Park committee is focusing on a comprehensive transportation plan. He mentioned the recent event at the Charlotte Knights game which gave us great exposure. He also enjoyed engaging with students at several recent student events.

He was asked about a timeline for the Knowledge Park transportation to be in place. He indicated 3-5 years.

He was asked about the recent restructuring. He clarified that HR is now Human Resources, Employee Diversity, and Wellness to reflect our increased focus on diversity in the workplace, especially at the faculty level, and to give broad attention to general employee wellness.

Staff Feedback

Via Staff Feedback Form, an employee asked why there was no theme for the faculty/staff party this year. Omitting a theme helped save money.

Grant reminded everyone that some topics from the Staff Feedback Forms would be addressed individually and some would be addressed during Staff Conference meetings, depending on the nature of the feedback. Employees submitting feedback can also indicate if they want their comments shared during the Conference meeting or not.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes are posted on the Staff Conference website and will also be referenced in the *Staff Stuff* newsletter with a clickable link.

Standing Committee Reports

Elections and Nominations – Becky Best indicated the committee will look at how the recent restructure will affect representation on Staff Assembly.

Media and Communications – Shelly Jones reported the upcoming Staff Stuff newsletter will include committee news, upcoming events, interesting tidbits and a Who Are Wu feature highlighting different department on campus. She also reminded everyone that any italicized words appearing in garnet are clickable links to additional information.

Professional Development – there were approximately 50 people at the recent Wake Up Friday sponsored by Career and Civic Engagement. Look for information soon for the October Wake Up Friday sponsored by the Office of Disability Services.

Campus and Community Involvement – September 18 is Winthrop Night at Food Truck Friday. In a collaboration with Old Town, \$10 food vouchers will be given to the first 75 students and the first 25 faculty staff members to attend. September 29 Preventative Partners is sponsoring the mobile mammogram for those over 40. October 4 is Pink Out day. Wear your pink and submit photos. October 16, Belk will be on campus to provide proper bra fittings.
Recognition – September 30 is the deadline for nominations for October Staff Member of the Month.

Introduction of Staff Member of the Month Nominees and Staff Member of the Month

TJ Hyatt announced that there were 18 nominations. Terri Sexton from Procurement Services is the Staff Member of the Month for September.

Questions and Comments

Look for an email soon regarding Open Enrollment which is during the month of October. There is an upcoming seminar for those within five years of retirement.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 20, at 2:00pm in Whitton Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Staff Assembly members present: Grant Scurry, Maria D'Agostino, Niki Behr, Rebecca Best, Johnathan Brabson, TJ Carney, Rob Dellibovi, Laura Little, Kelly McGinnis, Kelly Shelton, Jill Simpson, Kara Traverse

Staff Assembly members absent: Janelle Stevens

Approximately 105 staff members attended (including assembly members)