

Staff Conference Minutes
January 17, 2017
Dina's Place
DiGiorgio Campus Center

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Grant Scurry.

Dr. Mahony announced that they expected enrollment numbers for the spring 2017 semester to be up, and they are, even more than spring 2016. Fundraising is also up. He pointed out a previous email message from Katie Price, director of marketing, in regards to the university's future rebranding.

An audience member asked about changes to the Department of Education under President Trump. Mahony said "your guess is as good as mine," adding that it's guesswork as this transition occurs.

Questions were presented to Mahony. One asked about employee assistance programs (gambling, substance abuse, etc.) Mahony said he had seen similar programs at other universities that were successful. It's under research, as it would require an RFP.

Another question asked that, since employees could expect no pay raises this year, would they lose some of their take-home pay due to a retirement increase. Mahony said the state budget is in its early stages and not worth the effort of studying or worrying about, considering the budget was Gov. Haley's, and she was leaving for a position in the Trump administration. However, he said the university will continue putting money into competitive compensation. Should that scenario come about, the committee could think about how to deal with the decrease.

Another question asked about a party for faculty/staff since the back-to-school one was nixed. Mahony pointed out that it wasn't "replaced," as there were other events, such as the staff appreciation lunch. They are looking at other similar events.

An audience member asked about the Higher Education Subcommittee. Mahony said the current leadership is closely tied with current government and there is lots of talk back and forth about the model.

Lori Tuttle announced new staff members and asked any in attendance to stand and be recognized. Ten names were announced.

Elections & Nominations- With Karen Trunk's departure, Becky Best announced a nomination process will be open for the Athletics representation.

Media & Communications- The next newsletter date is Feb. 1.

Professional Development-Nicole Chisari thanked everyone for attending the successful TLC session on Outlook training; announced the next Wake-Up Friday event on Feb. 10; mentioned a survey that will be sent out soon on the needs; and announced the Feb. 14 committee meeting date.

Campus & Community Involvement-Pam Varraso thanked everyone for the food drive and said another will be planned for the spring. CCIC also plans to have a presence this year as well at the Come See Me picnic. Two-hundred people visited the tent in 2016.

Recognition-Miranda Johnson Knight said the nominations for the last two months would be consolidated into a winner for the following month.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. in Dina's Place.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.