

Staff Conference Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Dina's Place
DiGiorgio Campus Center

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Grant Scurry.

President Dan Mahony said a state higher-education budget was submitted that includes \$0 in recurring money. He hoped for a bond bill state-wide that would include funds for construction and maintenance issues on campus. He briefly mentioned a newly introduced bill that would allow Winthrop to be more flexible with housing. He share that fundraising was up, and that while application numbers were down, the number of students registered for Orientation is up.

One question asked about any specific steps Winthrop is taking/will take to be tobacco-free. Dr. Mahony said he is awaiting data that shows the positive impact campus-wide a tobacco ban would have. If he received this, he would present to the board. However, he has yet to see data like this. He does support moving the smoking areas farther away from buildings.

LeeAnn Pounds from Human Resources introduced Tina Vires, program director from the Office of Accessibility, who gave a presentation on the increase in animals on campus. From the HR standpoint, Pounds said faculty/staff need to understand how to respond when encountering these animals. They should also be cautious and respectful.

Vires shared that three types of animals are on campus: therapy animals; service animals; and emotional support animals. To tell the difference, you can determine, "Is the dog/animal here required because of a disability?" and "What work/task has the dog been trained to perform?" Vires said her office offers training sessions for offices that explain in-depth these animals and their purpose. One attendee asked if these trainings are required. LeeAnn Pounds said no, but HR encourages this initiative for awareness and understanding. Vires said it also helps with understanding proper protocol.

Elections & Nominations- Becky Best said that the election process will start in mid-April, with almost all areas with at least one vacancy. People who would like to nominate someone or express their own interest can reach out to her.

Media & Communications- Summersby Okey-Hamrick encouraged people to continue sending their milestones in.

Professional Development- Goldie Gildehaus shared info about the summer professional development conference.

Campus & Community Involvement-Pam Varraso mentioned the Come See Me picnic, set for April 29 at 3 p.m. for the cook-out. The second food drive will be April 17-May 12.

Recognition-Nominations are/were due March 31.

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

Grant Scurry told everyone about the April 20, We Are Winthrop event, which invites faculty/staff/students for a get-together at the front of campus. He also mentioned that the April 18 meeting, Meg Webber would share the impact report for GLI included in the SACS review.

Tina Vires mentioned the May 18-19, Social Justice League conference that will be on campus.

Rosie Hopkins Campbell talked about the April 13, Stayin' Alive event.

Katie Price mentioned the next Winthrop night with the Charlotte Knights is April 21.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in Dina's Place.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.