

Winthrop University
Staff Conference Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2019
Dina's Place

Staff Assembly Present: Johnathan Brabson, Kara Cauthen, Nicole Chisari, Thomas Cornelius, Julia Fockler, April Hershey, Lydia Johnson, Kelly McGinnis, Alicia Marstall, Jessica Martin, Brittany Neely, Linda O'Connor

Absent: Cheryl Gomez, Wes Love, Kirk McSwain

Staff in attendance: Approximately 37

Nicole Chisari, Chair, called meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The March 5 and March 19 minutes were approved.

Questions submitted to the President:

Why are students required to have vaccination records provided to health services before they can attend, but F/S do not have to provide records. Aren't they just as likely to spread contagious diseases the same as students can?

President Mahony stated that legally we cannot do this. When you hear about people providing health documents to an employer, it is typically because that employee works in a health field.

What is the status of the Compensation Committee's work? I have a serious concern about how I have been an employee for over 20 years, and a person was just recently hired with less than five years' experience, but get the same salary as I do. This feels like a slap in the face to those loyal to Winthrop. This isn't to say that the new person is not deserving, but how about supporting those who are already here? I feel like Winthrop really doesn't care about its employees. Why should we do everything we can to take of Winthrop if Winthrop won't take care of us?

President Mahony stated that the committee is working on these issues. Salaries have change and when a person leaves, we normally have to increase the salary to get the person we want.

What is the status of the Ombuds proposal from last year's coordinated effort between Faculty Conference and Staff Conference? Has it been approved? If so, when will campus learn about the part-time position availability for prospective applicants?

President Mahony reported that the information has passed through legal review and we will hopefully have someone by Fall 2019 for this position.

How will the \$1.2 million grant awarded through the U.S. Department of Commerce be used to address Winthrop's varied infrastructure needs? Has administration identified specific priorities to start on and what is the timeframe?

These funds will be used for the electrical system work, which is needed. This grant has freed up monies that were initially allocated for this work so other repair projects can be done.

While this sounds silly and most will laugh at this question (actually it really isn't silly, it's protection for the user). Is it possible to have the toilet seat covers installed in the restrooms? For cost's sake, they don't have to be in each stall, but perhaps one dispenser in each restroom. You are using just about the same cost if you are covering the seat with toilet paper.

Nicole answered as she reached out to Facilities and they have not gotten back to her. This is a sustainability issue. Nicole also read an article that stated that the covers allow more germs to thrive as it gives them more area in which to grow.

Two questions were submitted about esports:

How is the hiring going for the coach? Is there going to be a team for 2019-20? If there is, how is the recruiting going? And will our current student population be eligible (this was submitted before the hiring announcement went out).

If Athletes has nothing to do with the esports program, why did the Athletic Director hire this person and also the contact person for this sport is in Athletics? Athletics also made the announcement of the hiring of the new person. If Athletics is not involved with this program, why are they doing so much?

President Mahony reported that we will have a team for the 2019-20 academic year. The new coach will recruit 15-20 students for this. In addition, the current students do not have the skill level to participate at the level that these folks will, although they are eligible. Athletics is overseeing this sport. The goal was to have it be part of the Athletic Department. Winthrop will be one of only three universities in the NCAA Division I who categorizes esports under Athletics.

Is there a reason that the Athletics personnel do not need parking passes? I see Campus Police vehicles parked in the coliseum parking lot just sitting there, while they could be checking plates to see if parking passes are needed. The lower paid staff who are not coaches purchase these each year. I know coaches travel to campus and park in the visitor's spots and do not get ticketed, but they are some of the highest paid people on campus and yet do not have to purchase parking passes.

Nicole reached out Chief Ken Scoggins; he stated that all F/S should have parking passes. When the campus police are parked at the Coliseum, they are catching up on work, performing safety checks, etc. They cannot check every car - that would take up too much time logistically since the area is open to visitors. The Athletic Director needs to review this and discuss with his staff.

A question from the gallery asked for an update of the provost search. President Mahony stated they are still performing off-list reference checks, after which there will be some discussion on the contract.

Nicole presented two videos from Winthrop Day that Admissions' Jessica VanCleave had created.

Nicole also reminded everyone that the elections for new Staff Conference members will be starting soon, please check your emails. We will have six seats up for election. You can nominate yourself and you may nominate folks outside of your division.

Ask yourself, how you can make a difference on campus? Get involved with Staff Conference or one of our many committees, they all will appreciate the volunteers. If you have a great idea, submit it to us and we will look into it.

Standing Committee Reports:

Campus & Community Involvement – Thomas reported that this committee is looking for members. Current chair Pam is leaving Winthrop, and they would like to keep the events that she initiated. The meetings are about 30 minutes to 1 hour and they are like a club. Reminder that Food Truck Friday is April 19.

Elections & Nominations – Nicole reported an email would be going out from Becky Best about these.

Media & Communications –Kara reported the last edition will be in May and then will restart in August.

Professional Development – Nicole reported that another Banner training session would be on April 24 for auto care; please sign up on the TLC website. Mark your calendars for the third annual Professional Development seminar on June 26 and June 27 in the mornings.

Staff Feedback – Kirk was not present today, so Nicole reported that this committee would meet as needed to research items that come up in Staff Conference. They are looking for new members.

Recognition Committee –Kara Traverse presented 3 nominees and the winner this month is Katie Sardelli. Reminder, nominations are due April 30 by 5 p.m.

Brittany Neely announced 4 new hires.

Nicole reported that Rock Hill has launched bus transportation in the city. Two routes run through campus. The service runs from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays. The official start date is July 1, but the bus is running now. The social media handle is @myriderockhill.

Please let Nicole know if you have any ideas for topics, concerns you may have, as we are working for you.

Next Staff Conference will be at Dina's Place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.