

**Winthrop University**  
**Staff Conference Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2019**  
**Dina's Place**

Staff Assembly Present: Nicole Chisari, Thomas Cornelius, Cheryl Gomez, Lydia Johnson, Wes Love, Kelly McGinnis, Kirk McSwain, Alicia Marstall, Linda O'Connor, Brittany Neely, Julia Fockler, April Hershey  
Absent: Johnathan Brabson, Kara Cauthen, Lydia Johnson  
Vacancies: Student Affairs  
Staff in attendance: Approximately 45

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

The Dec. 4 meeting minutes were approved.

President Mahony was not present today; he is the NCAA convention in Florida.

Questions presented:

*I've been taking advantage of the EEAP benefit we get as Winthrop Employees. Since the benefit only covers up to \$5,250 without taxing, I was wondering why payroll doesn't start deducting the taxes from the moment you go over the benefit amount? Why wait until November to start deducting from our paycheck? The last of the year is often as expensive time for people, so that is an extra burden that could easily be alleviated by spreading if over more months. In my case, it could have been done from August on.*

Linda O'Connor answered this question. The benefits of this program are that tuition is waived for a maximum of six credit hours per semester. The value of the benefit is \$5,250, which is non-taxable. If you go over this amount, you are taxed at the regular income tax rate. Although payroll did not evaluate the amount of taxable income for 2018 until November of 2018, the department plans to track and report the income as early as possible for 2019 to lessen the impact of employee paychecks. Payroll does have to wait until the tuition adjustment period has passed which means it may be mid-fall term before taxable income would need to be reported. These taxes will show on your W-2. The tax rules for this changed in 2018. Payroll will be attempting to catch this earlier in the year but will still have to wait for the add/drop period to expire. On-line student's rates are based on the rate of their course and they may reach this cap earlier. As of right now, this only affects graduate student employees. If you have any questions on this program, please check the website at <https://www.winthrop.edu/hr/default.aspx?id=7812>.

*We noticed Dining Services has very limited hours at Starbucks during the holiday month (closing at 1 pm). Even though students and most faculty members are gone, staff members are still on campus and like to visit Starbucks in the afternoons. What is the reason for the limited hours?*

Nicole answered that she spoke to Bryan Harriss regarding this. The closing is based on traffic. Nicole suggests reaching out to Bryan. When the Sodexo survey comes out, please voice your concerns regarding the hours Starbucks is open.

*Does Winthrop recycle from offices? I have a recycling bin, but it's always emptied into the same larger bag as my trash by custodial staff. I often see the same happen with the larger trash/recycling bins in hallways and throughout buildings on campus. Why have separate bins if everything's ending up in the trash anyways? I brought this up several times to the Office of Sustainability over the last few years, but nothing has changed.*

Nicole spoke to Chris Johnson from the Office of Sustainability and he stated that there are centralized recycling bins in each building. You are responsible to empty your blue bin into those centralized bins.

If you see that there is no centralized bin or you do not have a small blue bin, please reach out to Chris Johnson to get one.

Nicole announced that people who submitted enrollment-related questions may have noticed that they were omitted this time. The Feb. 19 Staff Conference will be a solely enrollment focus.

Standing Committee Reports:

**Campus & Community Involvement** – Pam reported that Food Truck Friday is on April 19. This year we will not be having a Winthrop tent at the Come See Me Festival. CCIC will only be cooking and providing food for the emergency services staff. The food drive is continuing and donations are being accepted for the Rock Hill community, federal workers and the Winthrop community as well. Pam asks that you please check the expiration dates on the food you donate. In addition, they are always looking for new members to join, please contact Pam.

**Elections & Nominations** – Nicole reported that Becky sent out an email announcing an opening in Student Affairs. We have two new members: April Hershey and Kara Cauthen.

**Media & Communications** – Kara was out today. Kelly reported that the next Staff Stuff would be out in February. Please send your milestones to her. If you are not receiving the Staff Stuff newsletter, please let Kara know and she will add you to the distribution list.

**Professional Development** – Nicole reported that another Banner training session will be held on Jan. 31 and there was one opening left, so please sign up. The third annual Professional Development Conference is currently in the works.

**Staff Feedback** – Kirk reported that they are looking for new members and a chairperson. Please let him know if you are interested.

**Recognition Committee** – No nominations this month. Please get your nominations for January to Miranda by Jan. 31.

Katie Price announced that Dennis Miller would be at the coliseum on Feb. 20. Tickets are currently on sale on the Winthrop Athletics site.

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, Feb. 19, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.