

UMD Staff Council

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Administrative Conference Room

Approved 5-29-14

Attendees: Tracey Bolen, Jean Conner, Stacy Crawford, Nancy Damberg, Jason Davis, Jeni Eltink, Lisa Hansen, Loretta Kragness, Jeff Romano, Joel Youngblom

Excused: Kathee Abrahamson, Linda Olcott

Jeni opened the meeting at 10:33 a.m. Robert's Rules of Order were suspended for this meeting.

Minutes

The May 1, 2014 minutes were approved.

Committee Updates

Climate Change Leadership Team has not met since our last meeting. Jason attended the CLA Assembly and provided highlights of this year's meetings.

Recap of Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting

Chancellor gave a budget update on May 15 and celebrated 2013-14 accomplishments. The atmosphere was collegial. There were questions about admissions recruitment, and in response to a comment about the divisiveness between groups, Chancellor indicated he would like to address this. Linda Deneen's keynote address at the Commission on Women Luncheon was mentioned; Jason will send her address to the Council. Nancy expressed a desire for faculty members to meet with Staff Council in the fall. A request was made at the Town Hall for faculty and staff to have opportunities to interact with Twin Cities administration. Jeni noted that there are not enough nominations to fill seats in the University P&A Senate; those who are interested need to come forward.

Voting Recap

Jeni noted that Wendy Larrivy will send a call for nominations soon. The goal is for future elections to happen earlier next spring.

Trash/Recycling Changes

Joel shared concerns about the upcoming changes in trash/recycling pickup. There was a home page story and article in Brief, but many staff do not know that trash pickup will end this summer. Further communications seem needed, along with more details about effectiveness and the reasons behind the change. There is potential for many hard feelings among faculty/staff about this change. The Darland pilot project has gone well, but recycling is picked up daily. It is also unclear about cost changes for student fee and self-op units. Joel will draft a message to Mindy Granley and John King for further information.

Faculty Council Memo

Faculty Assembly members are voting on three resolutions that may impact campus governance. Many units have advisory committees, and it would be unwieldy to fold them into governance. It is unclear what happens next if these resolutions pass.

Additional Committee Updates

Joel provided an update on the web committee. They are reviewing proposed changes in how the committee is set up. Linda Deneen drafted a new format, with subgroups focusing on different functions. An accessibility task force is looking at policies that govern accessibility, web content and teaching resources; the goal is to have a report by December.

Jeni reported that on May 1 six Regents, Regents staff, and President Kaler's chief of staff met with UCC members but it was not a UCC meeting. At the beginning Jeni talked about the opportunities for all staff to have their voices heard in governance, including bargaining unit staff and that Staff Council is looking out for the interests of staff and supporting UMD's mission. The meeting quickly focused on research and cuts in faculty support. It was hard for Jeni and the students to participate in most of the discussion. Faculty as a whole and students as a whole have more common experiences than do staff. Contributions of staff are varied; there is not a similar staff experience. Jeni would like to explore how we tell our story.

UCC met on April 30. Jeni reported that the current UCC chair, Dan Eaton, is interested in collecting feedback about what is working and what changes are needed in governance committees. Jeni and Dan will work together on this issue.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 29, 2014 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Review of bylaws and collegiate constitutions were delayed until this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Greene