

STAFF COUNCIL
September 8, 2011

The Staff Council met at 1:15 p.m. in the Mellon Center conference room. In attendance were Blake Bradley, Missy Smock, Dale Conover, Jane Baines, Ann Harding, Stacy Tichenor, Adriane Powell, Cheri Armstrong, Julie Lappin, and Cathy Spitz. The Council expressed their appreciation to Missy for agreeing to serve on Staff Council for one year, replacing Trevor Sierra. Missy served on Wesleyan's first Staff Council, and she talked about how when it was first established it was the first time staff had a voice in university matters.

Old Business:

Minutes: Dale made a motion to approve the 8/17/11 meeting minutes; seconded by Blake. Minutes were approved.

Staff Council positions finalized:

Convener: Ann. Stacy will take care of meeting agendas.

Co-Convener: Stacy.

Recording Secretary: Julie.

Communications Secretary: Missy.

Web Managers: Adriane and Blake.

Election Coordinator: Jane.

Newsletter: Cheri.

Council on Diversity: Ann and Julie.

Suggestion Boxes: Jane, Dale and Julie.

Follow-up from President Wilson's visit: Cathy said that she's still gathering information from other institutions on their early/phase retirement policies. She also reported that the Cabinet agreed to our re-wording suggestions for their "Hiring from Within" document.

New Business:

Newsletter: Julie made a motion to approve the September 2011 newsletter; seconded by Blake.

Suggestion Boxes:

- Stacy reported that a faculty member approached her about being able to check the status on work orders. Dale said that Physical Plant did create signs that notify students when they have entered their rooms and completed their work orders, but that the only way to check status on other work orders is to call Mary at Physical Plant.
- Blake asked if there could be an exempt staff handbook, now that the non-exempt handbook has been completed. Cathy said that it was on the HR to-do list.
- Missy asked if the vacation time for exempt staff could be examined. The amount of vacation time that exempt staff receives when first hired remains the same throughout their entire time of employment at Wesleyan. Cathy said that HR did a study on that issue, and compared to other institutions Wesleyan is exceedingly

generous coming out of the gate, but falls behind later. Cathy also said that HR is too understaffed to check on the issue at this time.

Committee reports: Julie said that during the Council on Diversity meeting this morning, Provost Green offered to attend the next Staff Council meeting and speak about the Council on Diversity, and its connection to the Staff Council.

Ann asked for ideas on how to bring more faculty and staff to the Wesleyan Homecoming events. She said that the reunion dinners are the only events that charges apply to. Cathy wondered if Marty Smith could encourage the Cabinet to have supervisors let staff off work to attend events. Jane asked if there could be an educational piece done, one that could direct faculty and staff to a website showing who will be attending the events. Blake thought a tailgating concept might work as well, especially one that doesn't involve alcohol. Ann would like us to encourage staff to attend the lunch on October 22nd, the Saturday afternoon of Homecoming weekend. The lunch is free, and everyone attending gets a free ticket to the football game after lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on September 29th at 1:15 p.m. in the Titan Room, Memorial Center. Cathy will invite Provost Green to that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Lappin