Minutes will be approved at next meeting.

OSU STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 13, 2010 - 408 Student Union


Absent: Niland, Venard

Tara Gladden called the meeting to order at 1:15 p. m. and Carey Warner called roll.

Tara asked for approval of the December minutes. A motion was made to approve the November minutes, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Tara asked for approval of the agenda. Additions to the agenda included discussion of vacancies as New Business. A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Executive Update – President Burns Hargis

President Hargis stated that the budget continues to be the number one issue for OSU with a 5% cut at the beginning of the year. Even though the university has Stimulus funds, we cannot rely on the funds to cover all shortfalls. In December and January the monthly budget cut was increased to 10%. In FY11 there will be no Stimulus funds and there is uncertainty that the economy will recover enough for FY12. At this time, there are no plans to increase tuition and fees. Furloughs have been discussed, but are not
scheduled to occur. Layoffs are not being discussed at this time. President Hargis assured the Council that new buildings coming online would not increase energy costs.

President Hargis stated the enrollment was moving in the right direction. Student retention, once at 82%, has dropped to 78%. Everyone needs to be involved in improving OSU’s student retention. Plans for retention improvement includes creation of additional scholarships. At one time, both Faculty and Staff Councils recommended the tuition/fee waiver extend to dependants of OSU employees. President Hargis stated that while this sounds like a great benefit, not all will be eligible (i.e. employees without children) and that Administration is not considering this recommendation at this time.

President Hargis stated that the Health Care Task Force is currently looking for ways to minimize our 2011 premium increase. OSU’s contract with BCBS to control premium increases ends this year.

Faculty Council Update, January 2010 – Marta Kochenhower

The Faculty Council discussed their recruitment effort and need for faculty participation in their mission. President Hargis discussed the budget including the potential of a capital campaign. The Enrollment Management Advisory Task Force discussed enrollment., retention and graduation. A task force was created last month to conduct fact finding research surrounding President Hargis’ decision to decline participation in a research project involving euthanasia of baboons. After reporting their findings, the committee recommended that the OSU President not prohibit research without first consulting with the affected stakeholders. The recommendation was tabled until the February meeting. Dianne LaFollette will be retiring from OSU effective March 1, 2010 after 16 years of support to the Faculty Council.

Treasurer’s Report - Lynette Venard

Lynette was not present; however, the treasurer’s report is located at the end of the minutes.

Branch Campus Reports

OSU-CHS – Chad Landgraf
Chad stated this has been a record year for fundraising. OSU-CHS has raised approximately $5000 thus far. OSU-CHS also hosted a Christmas Party for staff before the holiday break.

OSU-Institute of Technology – Allen York
OSU-IT enrollment numbers are up and staff are currently being trained on recruitment/retention of students.

OSU-OKC – Melissa Herron
OSU-OKC also hosted a Christmas Party before the holiday break. The NCA accreditation will take place next week. OSU-OKC will break ground on a new engineering building this month.

OSU-Tulsa – Bret Niland
Bret was not present therefore no report was given.

Report of Standing Committees

Rules & Procedures – Barbara Dobson
Barbara stated the committee is getting ready for nominations/elections.
**Awards & Recognition – Bonnie Gladden**

Bonnie confirmed that the Student Union Ballroom and Willard Lawn had been reserved for May 20th and that plans are underway for the annual staff picnic. A Valentine’s Day raffle, including two men’s basketball tickets, movie tickets, dinner at Red Lobster and a night’s stay at the Atherton, begins today. Another raffle will be take place closer to the picnic.

**Public Relations – Susan Marshall**

Susan stated that the PR committee met with the A&R committee recently to beginning planning the annual staff picnic. The committee will begin contacting vendors in March. Jac Tucker will be donating some hand made bags as door prizes for the picnic.

**Policies, Benefits, and Budget – Daniel Darnell**

The PB&B committee moved that the Council approve the following recommendation:

**Recommendation No. 091208PBB-22**

**Title: OSU Emergency Housing Recommendation**

The Staff Advisory Council Recommends to Administration that: The OSU-Stillwater campus implements a plan through Residential Life to house OSU employees displaced by natural disasters which cause them to be without housing. Such a plan might allow OSU faculty or staff, who have been displaced from their home, to have the opportunity to stay in on-campus housing for little to no cost to them in the immediate aftermath of the event and at a discounted rate if a longer displacement is required.

**Rationale:**

OSU has several faculty and staff throughout the year who are displaced from their homes because of natural disasters. Many times, these dislocations affect the employees’ ability to come to work or put a severe financial hardship in their search for alternative housing. It is believed that such a program will alleviate the stress associated with home emergencies and eliminate the need for the employee to find alternative housing, thus enabling them to maintain a normal employment schedule.

The motion was seconded by Barbara Dobson and passed by a voice vote.

The PB&B committee moved that the Council approve the following recommendation:

**Recommendation No. 100113PBB-23**

**Title: OSU Childcare Recommendation**

The Staff Advisory Council Recommends to Administration that: The OSU-Stillwater campus considers offering childcare to OSU employees through a partnership with an existing childcare facility. Such a partnership could range from guaranteeing a certain amount of spaces each year or semester at a current facility(ies) to having an entire facility dedicated solely to OSU that is operated by the childcare company.

**Rationale:**

OSU has spent several years discussing the issue of providing childcare to its employees. Surveys in this time have shown that the lack of an official childcare facility or partnership has hindered recruitment of faculty and staff. Previous efforts have
centered on OSU establishing its own childcare facility and system. However, the process has proven to be overwhelming to the point that the issue has stalled on each attempt.
The requirements to establish a certified and quality childcare facility are quite extensive. With this and the above in mind, the Staff Advisory Council suggests that a partnership with an already established childcare facility/system would be a wise endeavor to meet the challenge of offering a more direct childcare option to OSU employees beyond the current system of flex benefits.
In thinking about a parallel to childcare, one can look at health care. OSU has chosen not to develop its own system, again because of the tangled web of details, but it has partnered with various companies over the years – Blue Cross/Blue Shield being the current partner.
Offering a more direct childcare option with an established partner gives OSU the most viable option of making this needed service available and available soon to its current and future employees.

The motion was seconded by Ival Gregory and passed by a voice vote.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Vacancies – Tara Gladden
There is a Student Affairs seat with the term 2008-2011 still vacant. Nathan Cragun resigned from his Academic Affairs seat with the term 2009-2012. Lynette Venard recently resigned from her seat and office as Treasurer. Her seat is in Administration and Finance with the term 2009-2012. If you know of anyone wanting to serve on the Council, please send them to Tara.

Treasurer Nominations – Tara Gladden
Tara asked for nominations for the Treasurer’s seat from the floor. Nominations included Kathie Tanner, Lyn Putnam, and Mickey Gregg. A ballot vote was conducted and Lyn Putnam was elected to fill the Treasurer’s seat for the remainder of the year.

Provost Search – Daniel Darnell
Danny stated 50-60 applications were received. The committee will narrow down to the final candidates in April/May.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Warner, Secretary