Minutes
Staff Council Meeting
9/27/2010

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mike Stephens.

There were 8 members present.
(Lecia Hughes, Mike Stephens, James Greer, Robbie Loomis, Keely Acklin, Lanita Roden, Kellie Merritt and Sam Corbett came in late).

Kellie read minutes from previous meeting on 9/9/2009.

Lanita made a motion to approve minutes. James second. Minutes approved.

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING:

Mike mentioned that he did talk to Lisa Williams and Brad Poorman regarding the technology fee concern. They said that the tech fee was really not a technology fee, but a fee that allows more money for the University. It is now called University Enhancement fee.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS:
Mike suggested we do election again by email since staff won’t be meeting as a group anytime soon. He suggested we take nominations for a week and then allow one week for elections. Mike asked Lecia if we could get a list of eligible staff from her. Staff must be ¾ time or above, paid staff only. Although all employees can vote.

James Greer, Terry Young, and Keely Acklin were to have rotated off the Council in April. Election will replace these open positions. It was agreed that we pro-rate the incoming people to only serve 2 ½ years in order to get us back on track.

Nominations will be held the following week, beginning Monday, Oct. 4. On Monday, Oct. 11 Mike will send out election ballots for vote. Staff will be given a week to vote. Results will be announced the following week.
Mike suggested that we set up regular meetings ahead of time. The by-laws state that we meet quarterly or more frequently as needed. It was decided that we will meet October 25 from 3:00-4:00 and greet our new members, and say thank you to those rotating off.

**PIT STOP:**
We discussed the McMurry Pit Stop which we failed to get together in May for students returning home. This is something we would like to continue, however, location is an issue. The parking lot by WahWahtaysee where we usually conduct the Pit Stop is no longer an option. It was decided that the Pit Stop would be discussed further at the next meeting. It was discussed that we need to add minutes to the website and to SharePoint. Keely said to send her the minutes that need to be added and she would take care of it this time. Then once we get new members in place we can talk to Jim Quinnett about access to the Cascade.

**OPINIONS/IDEAS ON OLD MAIN RENOVATION:**
VPAA Paul Fabrizio asked for input/questions/concerns from the Staff Council regarding the renovation of Old Main. Many on Staff Council were unsure of what was going on with this project. Kellie gave an update on info received from Architect Rick Weatherl at a meeting he held with those currently housed in Old Main. James mentioned that Career/Counseling Services along with Student Affairs was to be moved to President’s Residence Hall, permanently. He voiced concern that Counseling have some input in the plans for the layout of their space, due to privacy concerns.

**BUDGET/CUTBACKS:**
Staff Council was also asked to discuss any thoughts/ideas/concerns they had heard regarding the current budget situation and the suggestion from Dr. Russell that the McMurry community as a whole brain storm and see if we could come up with any solutions to the budget deficit before the University resort to furlough days or personnel decrease. Sam Corbett said he visited with his guys regarding furlough days and their thoughts were that if we did have to resort to furlough days that they would like to see floating furlough days. Meaning that each person get to choose the day they would like to take their furlough day and not a day set aside that everyone has to take at a certain time.

Robbie Loomis also mentioned that admissions had discussed the furlough day situation. They thought possibly we take the extra 2 ½ days at Spring Break that we are required to work and use those as furlough days, with the possibility of stipulating when you wanted that money withheld from your paycheck.

Kellie voiced concern that furlough days and personnel cuts seem to be the only options being considered by many staff members. Dr. Russell’s email said that furlough days and personnel reduction would be a last resort. Lanita and Kellie shared concern over furlough days. Not everyone can afford to lose a day of pay, although it is understood that this is a better idea than anyone losing their job. All agreed that they would rather see furlough days than personnel reduction.
It was also agreed that Temporary pay-cuts was not a good idea.

James mentioned that the incoming class of freshmen seemed to be compiled of more diligent students and was hopeful that this will lead to a better retention rate, even though the class size is smaller and that we will be on to a better future in a couple of years.

Kellie mentioned that VPAA Dr. Fabrizio would like staff council to consider meeting with him occasionally to discuss what is going on with staff council. All agreed this would be good. Mike suggested staff council meeting with Dr. Fabrizio and possibly one other person from a different division, perhaps Lisa Williams since not all business/staff council fell under Dr. Fabrizio. He felt that would be a better representation. Just thoughts for the future.

Mike asked for a motion to adjourn.
Keely made the motion.
Sam second.