

Longwood University
Staff Advisory Committee Minutes
April 14, 2009 @ 1:30-3:00 pm/Lankford BC Rooms

Ms. Scruggs, Staff Advisory Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and attendance was taken.

Members present: Jonette Aughenbaugh, Grant Avent, Bill Benninghove, Gayle Covington, Karen Fulcher, Brandi George, Marty Gibson, Jeff Gore, Anita Harris, Crystal Ragland, Nancy Scruggs, Sharon Sercombe, Eric Stoller, Donna Simpson

Members absent: Kelly Martin, Tonya Smith, Debbie Wooding

A quorum was confirmed. The Minutes of March 19, 2009 were approved as presented.

New Business:

Crystal Ragland discussed an email suggestion that was posted on our website that requests we check into placing picnic tables/chairs at specific campus locations for use. This suggestion has come up before at the SAC meetings over the years. Kelly Martin will update us regarding this matter at the next meeting as she has information to share.

Crystal Ragland discussed “Spotlight On” idea which entails us spotlighting Longwood staff each month. It was recommended that we start with committee members first. The initial idea is to create a “Feature Five” each month that we will post in the Rotunda, on SAC website, and in weekly “What’s Happening Longwood” announcements from the Student Union. We will send each selected staff a confidentiality form that gives us permission to post their picture and information about them which will be derived from specific questions. Eric Stoller and Bill Benninghove agreed to help Crystal draw up a plan.

Jeff Gore reported that he has already posted in the weekly campus announcements the dates and times of the SAC meetings through this semester and that our meetings will be open to the staff during the first 30 minutes. He also posted that our Staff/Faculty can enjoy free pizza every Friday in the Lancer Café. These announcements will run weekly until the end of the semester.

There followed a brief discussion on how we plan to conduct our meetings during that 30 minutes open time.

Nancy Scruggs discussed the Ice Cream Social. We decided to move the Ice Cream Social to the end of June. We will introduce our new SAC members at this social. Donna will chair the committee to plan the social. Jeff Gore agreed to serve on it. Discussion followed.

The Selection Committee, chaired by Donna Simpson along with Debbie Wooding and Crystal Ragland will compile a list of available staff members that can serve on the SAC. We will vote on them at our May meeting. We need one AP staff as well as seven classified staff to fill vacant positions. They begin their terms on July 1st.

As webmaster for our committee, Crystal Ragland agreed to respond to the emails that come in on our new website. She discussed another recent email that suggests that we create a Longwood cookbook to raise money for scholarships or other needs. Crystal will follow up with this employee to request that she attend our May meeting to discuss this idea. Sharon Sercombe volunteered to work with the person regarding this idea. Discussion followed.

Rector Connelly arrived and discussed the Presidential Search Committee and the process involved.

- The committee members were selected in an inclusive and diverse manner and a total of 15 individuals were selected to serve. It’s a larger group with a broader representation from across campus than originally thought.
- Five of the Board of Visitors will serve on this Committee.
- They sent out packages to several presidential search firms of different sizes. Ten search firms responded back; they hope to pick one firm by May. The firm will be on campus later asking for our input. Ms. Connelly is confident we’ll get a lot of responses.
- They will advertise the position in August or September. They also will use a lot of networking to find the right person.
- The Committee plans to have 6-10 candidates for interviews conducted off campus.
- They will bring three finalists to the campus for interviews. BOV and others across campus will have an opportunity to be involved in the interview process. We will have the opportunity to participate either in forums or small groups.

- In January 2010, they hope to make a decision. By April 2010, they hope to have it confirmed. The new president will start July 1, 2010. Ms. Connelly encouraged us to visit their website “presidential search” on Longwood’s home page to view the details.
- Ms. Connelly’s position as Rector expires on June 1st but she will continue to serve on the BOV and will be involved in the Presidential Search.

Discussion followed. Rector Connelly requested our input pertaining to the biggest challenges for the next five years and the attributes we want in a new president. Some of our suggestions were: Fundraiser, Enthusiasm, Willingness to do anything, Caring, Approachable, Visionary, Student Centered; suggested we select from academia as oppose to business; suggested we consider internal candidates; a person willing to make things happen; larger growth - more of a presence in larger university community – bigger athletic program; maintain our heritage for what we’re known currently; and balance of athletics and building on what we have. What is our niche? More ideas: pushing for more resources; quality of inter-structure and community; conflict management; resolves issues; good connection in Richmond, SCHEV, and General Assembly; carve out time and walks around campus – approachable; looking for someone who has connections to an athletic conference and independent resources – not just the government. Ms. Connelly encouraged us to talk to our departmental staff for more ideas.

Old Business:

Items moved to our next SAC meeting in May:

- 1- Appointment of a Speaker Series Committee – Nancy Scruggs
(Duties of the Committee, Start Date, Frequency, Arrangements, Drafting a Flyer/Brochure for Distribution)
- 2- Mentor Program for new staff members – Nancy Scruggs
(Start Date, Drafting a Plan)

Respectfully Submitted

Anita T. Harris