

Longwood University
Staff Advisory Committee Minutes
July 15, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
Ruffner 103

Crystal Ragland called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and attendance was taken.

Members Present: Grant Avent, Tiffany Dempsey, Brandi George, Amy Harris, Jay Lynn, Kelly Martin, Keary Mariannino, Daphne Norton, Sharon Perutelli, Rena Reynolds, Jennifer Sawyer, Eric Stoller, Hunter Swanson, Cynthia Thompson, Peg Turner, and Della Wickizer.

Members Absent: Mike Janos.

Minutes from the meeting on June 17, 2010, were approved.

GUEST SPEAKER:

General Finnegan attended the meeting in order for the Staff Advisory Committee to get to know him, and for the President to become familiar with the purpose of the committee. All committee members introduced themselves to the President and Crystal Ragland explained the purpose and mission of the Staff Advisory Committee. General Finnegan shared some of his thoughts and hopes for the future of Longwood. He wanted us to remember that the focus of all faculty and staff members should be on what's best for the students, and that all of us are working toward a common goal of educating and developing students. He wanted us to know that he's not planning to make any major changes in the near future. He plans to spend the first 6 months to a year getting an overall feel for the campus, and from there it will be a collaborative effort of change when necessary. He stressed that it is NOT "his" vision for Longwood, it is "OUR" vision." He plans to take measures to better promote Longwood so to increase awareness of the many positive qualities and educational opportunities available through the University. He added that through the use of Facebook he plans to promote our faculty and staff members and let others know the good things that are happening on campus. And lastly, General Finnegan's parting words were, "Let's have fun!" His desire is to make Longwood a better place, and for us to enjoy what we do and enjoy working together. He would like everyone to work out their difficulties together and respect each other and each other's opinions—we agree to disagree, but to "play nice". He welcomes thoughts and suggestions and wants us to make an effort to greet him as he walks about campus. Before the President left the meeting, Daphne presented him with a Longwood welcome basket collected from various departments around campus.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS:

Since there was only one nominee per category, there was no need to vote for the new Staff Advisory Committee Officers. The new officers are:

Daphne Norton – Chair
Brandi George – Vice Chair
Jennifer Sawyer – Secretary
Tiffany Dempsey – Budget
Jay Lynn – Webmaster

After the introduction of new officers, Crystal Ragland turned over her duties to Daphne Norton.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tiffany Dempsey gave an update on the calendar. Some photos have been picked out and were dropped off to Tim Trent, but she's still waiting on more photos. There will be a template of the calendar soon for everyone to see, and Tiffany is hoping the calendar will be ready by Oktoberfest. Around 200 calendars will be printed, and we will charge \$8 for each.

We will advertise the calendars for scholarships via the staff newsletter, *The Link*, Amy Harris will advertise it to alumni, and Jay Lynn will add it to the SAC website.

Jay Lynn gave an update on the SAC website. He is in the process of setting up the anonymous suggestions form on the site. He mentioned that the site is moving to RedDot, so there will be a new format.

Della Wickizer looked into the tax credit for employees that bike to work. Unfortunately, the tax credit must be approved by state legislature in order for it to take effect. The tax credit can't be used at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

In order to maintain anonymity, the SAC committee went into closed session to discuss emails directed to the website of concerns, comments, and suggestions.

The committee discussed ideas on boosting morale. It was unanimous to periodically select and recognize groups of staff on campus that are, in a sense, unsung heroes and have exhibited teamwork, professionalism and a strong work ethic in support of the University and our mission. The process will be handled in such a manner as to surprise these individuals in order that morale will be elevated.

Daphne Norton talked about the Dessert Social, which will be held on August 11 at 3:00. The President will be in attendance and new SAC members will be introduced at this time. Everyone agreed that the Coffee Social on July 14th was a wonderful success with great attendance. Committee members thanked Grant Avent for the food and its improved taste.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on August 19, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Ruffner 103.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sawyer