Staff Council Executive Meeting with President Mason
Tuesday, August 26, 2014
101 Jessup Hall

Attending: President Mason; Sue Buckley, Vice President for Human Resources Administration; Erin Brothers, Laurie Hafner Dahms, John Downing, Hans Hoerschelman, Randy Nessler, Josh Smith, Chuck Wieland, and Marsha Adolph

Absent: Kimberly Keister and Shannon Lizakowski

Meeting called to order

Updates

Class is back in session with a great opening day yesterday with the largest, best prepared, most diverse class yet. The evacuation of students from Slater Hall was discussed. Fortunately, students were able to return to their rooms that evening although alternative plans had been prepared in the event that they were not able to return. The recent sexual assault is still under investigation.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center officially opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 23, 2014. This organization raised $25 million to occupy 1.5 floors within the Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building. The official dedication was held in the Conference Center in the Coralville Marriott Hotel on Saturday.

Meetings with Deloitte have continued and will continue to be an ongoing process. Mark Braun has been appointed to serve as the Transformation Project Manager for the TIER study. This was effective Monday, August 25. He will be taking a leave of absence from his position as Chief of Staff and Vice President for External Relations for the University of Iowa. Peter Matthes and Laura McLeran will be sharing the responsibilities of these positions in Mark’s absence.

Discussion of a possible early retirement program could be a topic at a future Staff Council meeting. There is nothing definitive at this time.

Changes related to the NCAA allowing more freedom regarding stipends, scholarships and insurance for players could allow more investment in the student athletes regarding safety, insurance, food and nutrition, etc., and also allowing for programs where a student may come back after a professional career to finish their college degree.

An article in the Des Moines Register this week indicating that a fraction of Iowa graduates are ready for college was discussed. ACT and SAT tests are good indicators of whether someone is ready for college, but class ranking is also considered as this indicates how well someone performs among their peers in their high school. Community Colleges are great resources for those not ready academically or emotionally, and also for those seeking vocational degrees.
The Compensation and Classification redesign reviews 20% of the classifications each year to remain current. The process is just beginning for this year, so we are reminded to let your senior HR person know if you have concerns with any particular classification that you feel should be reviewed.

Collective Bargaining begins again this fall. The initial proposals will be announced, and then again when negotiations are finalized.

Meeting adjourned