
Absent: Heath Davis, Travis Dillavou, Michael Hesseltine, Shannon Lizakowski, Toni Mueller, Ann Ramsey, Angela Roemeraman, Dick See, Raymond Small

Administrative Liaisons: Kevin Ward, Interim Vice President for Human Resources Administration and Josey Bathke, Director, University Employee and Labor Relations

Guests: Austin Petroski, Daily Iowan and Andy Davis, Press Citizen

Welcome, Roll Call, and Minutes
Meeting called to order.

University of Iowa Athletics Presentations
Rick Klatt, Associate Director of Athletics for External Relations talked about a new initiative called “Black and Gold Friday”. This initiative is a partnership with the UI Alumni Association. The initiative is designed to take the enthusiasm and importance of football weekends to include Friday activities. They are asking the campus community to wear black and gold on Fridays during home football games. Prize Patrols will be giving prizes out for individuals and groups who are dressed in black and gold. They will also stop people and encourage them to join in the fun. They may also hand out t-shirts for those who do not have one on. They also will be promoting other university and community events that are going on throughout the weekend. The Twitter hashtag is #blackandgoldfriday. If you want to take team photos, you may send them to Rick Klatt, UI Athletics or Jeff Kueter, UI Alumni Association.

Gene Taylor, Deputy Athletics Director presented “Win. Graduate. Do It Right.”. Athletics is fully funded and does not receive any General Education Funds from the state. Mr. Taylor went over many statistics about how well the approximately 3400 athletes at the University of Iowa are doing and their accomplishments both on and off the field. There was a discussion about the Master Facilities plan for renovations and new buildings on the athletics campus. There has been some comments in the news lately about an athletics dorm being built on campus. Mr. Taylor did say that rules keep them from making it a dorm just for athletes. It would be close to the athletics campus but available for anyone to live in. It is currently being looked at. The Board of Regents did approve money for renovations at Kinnick Stadium. There was some concern from hospital staff about how congested the area close to the hospital already is.
TIER Update, One Finance, Debby Zumbach, Interim Assistant Vice President, Director of Purchasing and Business Services

Debby Zumbach told us that shared services is moving forward. There are currently two beta sites: Athletics and Dentistry. Due to retirements, Dentistry did not fill one FTE position and Athletics did not fill a .5 FTE position. The early results are that the orders are getting done faster and the process is very smooth. VPR will be doing a joint HR/Finance pilot this fall. Debby talked about how they were using data to make decisions. They are modeling the process that the University of Kansas used by looking at the number of transactions. The biggest issue with using a number of transactions is that it does not look at the complexity of those transactions. An example of this is that we audit travel expenses all the way through. As organizations want to, they will be moving them to shared services. Debby is also looking at who the eligible employees are. Anyone who has done a transaction will be considered. Merit staff will be treated differently than P & S staff due to union rules. There will be a menu of services including procurement card purchases, procurement card reconciliation, procurement requests, travel expense vouchers, PReqs, e-Buy, and e-Deposit. There was a question about how research grants are treated. Terry Johnson is leading a subgroup related to shared services and research funding. There will be more information shared about that at a later date.

Discussion of Presidential Search Outcome

President Hoerschelman gave a statement about how he and the Executive Committee worked through the Presidential search issues. He felt Chuck Wieland represented staff well on the search committee. The Executive Committee questioned each candidate vigorously. There was a good turnout at the public forums. Knowing there were concerns from faculty, staff, and students, the Board of Regents made their final decision. Reactions from staff were mostly cynicism about the process. The Executive Committee met with President-elect Harreld on Friday, September 4 after the decision was made. Concerns were brought up about funding, staff, and TIER. President-elect Harreld requested that we not protect him. President-Elect Harreld wants staff to be straight forward with him and to continue doing the good work we are doing. After the meeting with President-elect Harreld, the Executive Committee put out the statement below to staff:

The Executive Committee met this morning with President-Elect Bruce Harreld. We had a very frank, open, honest discussion with him about staff concerns on our campus; including but not limited to the perception of transparency in the hiring process, TIER efforts on campus, staff fears about their jobs, and continuing to do more with less. These concerns were acknowledged and President-Elect Harreld stated he is committed to being an advocate for The University of Iowa, as well as building “great teams to do great work”.

Regardless of how you or your colleagues may be feeling right now about the hiring process, Executive Committee urges you to keep an open mind, stay positive, and help us to challenge our new president to take us to the next level. While he does not start until November 2nd, he will be on campus at different times in the next couple of months. We are working on ideas as to how we can assist in educating him about The University of Iowa, staff’s role in shared governance, and how staff impact our campus, community, and state.

As always, we rely on councilor and constituent feedback to inform our conversations. If you have questions or comments, please let the Executive Committee know.

We urge you to send this note onto your constituencies.
After a respectful discussion of feedback obtained from sources across campus, Staff Council voted in favor of putting out a public statement. Council went into a closed session to prepare the specific wording of the statement. After the statement was complete, Council went back into open session and the statement was voted in favor of as follows:

On behalf of those we represent, The University of Iowa Staff Council expresses disappointment in the process by which the Iowa Board of Regents selected the next University of Iowa President. There is a perception among many staff of a lack of transparency and disregard for the feedback provided by the UI community, which stands in contradiction to our valued principles of shared governance. UI Staff will continue to be dedicated to advancing the mission of the University of Iowa, will work in collaboration with our new president, and will continue to serve the students and citizens of Iowa.

The statement was then provided to the Board of Regents via their email addresses listed on the BOR website.

Announcements
Monica Madura made an announcement about the Homecoming Parade float. Please contact her if you are interested in being a part of or walking with the float. The parade is Friday, October 9.

Adjourn
Meeting adjourned. Minutes will be voted on by email.