

Staff Council Annual Report 2002/2003
March, 2003

In looking back on this year, it seems to me to have been a year of transition, of new beginnings, and of continuity. It did not play out anything like I thought it would play out. We had to move to new offices from the IMU to the Jefferson Building during the summer months. We survived that; just barely. That has turned out fine for us. The space works for our office manager and for our groups to meet. The only negative is the fact that the Jefferson building has the world's slowest elevator. We started a new budget committee meeting with faculty members on a regular basis. I think that new arrangement will allow us to expand our knowledge of the budget processes here. We also learned we need to keep meeting periodically just as a staff budget committee. Our Education committee made a transition to new tasks; making presentations each month to new staff and handling the scholarship and tuition assistance programs that make it possible for staff members to continue to improve their skills and career opportunities. Our University Relations committee is now functioning in the area of governmental relations and that group met periodically with faculty and was a cosponsor of a legislative forum last month. I think there also we have made some new beginnings in working with faculty that will help in the long run. That group also has revised some of the procedures for our staff excellence awards and that was not a small task. The diversity committee once again put on a successful Martin Luther King Jr day celebration. That group also participated in the painting of the fence that surrounds Old Capitol. Our Committee on Committees worked hard to select good people for the various charter committees and those staff members on those charter committees are critical contacts for us as a Staff Council in understanding some of the issues that periodically come up for us. Our HR committee discussed policies of importance to the HR function and made sure some of those

issues were brought to the Council. Our by-laws committee dealt with several important changes in our by-laws and how we operate. And of course our elections committee has made it possible for us to elect new members once again to the Staff Council. The MSE/C group met regularly and continued with its forums. The Exec Committee met monthly and with the President to discuss issues and to allocate the coca cola funds.

As a Staff Council body, we dealt with early retirement options, parking rate increases, budget decreases, non tenure track research faculty, probationary terms for employees, salary policy, layoffs, reductions in workforce, smoking policy, campus capital campaign, visitors in the workplace policy, conflicts of commitment and interest, credential checks, policy for moving from merit classification to P&S classification, intellectual property, and others.

We heard from some of the charter committees; Funded Retirement and Insurance, BICOA, Family Issues, Information Technology, Human Rights, Parking, Campus Planning. I believe it is critical we continue to hear from those committees on a regular basis.

We heard from the Ombudsperson's office, the Provost, the University Governmental affairs office (Mark Braun and Derek Willard), Jeff Cox from the faculty senate, Jane Van Voorhees from the Presidents office of outreach, and others.

Of course the biggest transition was that of Presidents. We said good by to Mary Sue Coleman; welcomed Sandy Boyd; and now will welcome David Skorton. The Exec comm. met periodically with Sandy and will continue that tradition with Pres. Skorton. Pat Arkema and I had the privilege of serving on that search committee.

I want to thank all of you for participating in the life of the Staff council this last year. I thought at the beginning of the year that we would lose some folks because of layoffs and unfilled positions; that people would be too busy to participate, but that did not happen to the extent I thought it would so I thank you all for hanging in there. Thanks to Sue Buckley for her support (and to her staff); a special thanks to Heather Weber for her support in our staff council office; thanks to the members of the Executive committee who also hung in there for the year.

And, a big thank you to all of you leaving the Staff Council this year: Pat Arkema, Cathy colony bunnell, sherry Pech, Anne Tanner, Jennifer Carpe, Barb Kabela, Prasanna Kumar, Feather Lacy, Juan Parales, Jun Tang, Jeff Evans.

Dave Martin

3/12/03