

Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting
January 21, 2004, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
603 JB

Present: Chris Annicella, Ella Born, Vicki Brown, Charlie Eastham, Hazel Kerr, Dave Martin, Cheryl Reardon, Michelle Wichman

1. **Called to order** at 2:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 12/17/03 Executive Committee meeting and 12/10/03 Executive Committee meeting with President Skorton approved as presented.
3. **Issues for Discussion:**
 - a. Proposed tuition assistance benefit update: Michelle distributed a handout entitled "Proposal for Tuition Assistance at the University of Iowa" dated January 16, 2004. She briefly went over the purpose of the proposal and the strategy of combining existing tuition assistance programs. There are three sources of funding, including the Staff Council Tuition Scholarship. Michelle discussed the suggested eligibility requirements. She also discussed a proposal to allow staff and faculty to attend and receive credit for classes, free of charge, if empty seats are available. The Executive Committee (EC) discussed these proposals at length and had some questions regarding the UIHC tuition assistance program, the process these proposals will take, and if there has been some benchmarking with other schools. Charlie suggested that he might add these proposals to an upcoming Staff Council meeting agenda.
 - b. New members for Peer Support Group: Charlie wondered if any of the EC members knew of anyone who might be interested in serving as a peer support person. He asked EC members to contact anyone they think might be interested. Charlie said that Diane Anderson had provided some information with regard to occasions when members of the group have provided support.
 - c. Electronic elections/nominations: Charlie mentioned that the nomination form for upcoming Staff Council elections is up on the SC web site. Ella referred to the chart she distributed at the last EC meeting that showed an increase in the number of staff that Council represents. It was discussed if this should be reported at an upcoming Council meeting. Vicki pointed out there is one additional vacancy to fill in the Special Services (MSE/C) category due to the reclassification of a current Councilor.
 - d. Bylaws change allowing closed Council meetings: Michelle distributed a handout that shows the current Bylaws language with regard to Staff Council meetings and a suggested revision. Charlie said Sue Buckley advised that state law regarding open meetings does not apply to Staff Council and/or Faculty Senate. It was questioned why we would need this provision. It was believed that having a closed meeting would rarely, if ever, happen but it might be prudent to have the option available. Charlie will add this proposal to change the Bylaws to the agenda for the February Staff Council meeting.
 - e. University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA) recommendations to extend Emeritus status to Research Scientists and Engineers: Charlie distributed copies of a letter sent to Sue Buckley from Mary Jo Small on behalf of the UIRA. There was some discussion regarding the benefits

that would be extended if this change were to take place. Charlie said that Sue Buckley would like to present this proposal to Staff Council. The EC agreed and he said that he would add it to the agenda for the February meeting.

- f. News & Views articles and content: Ella had no update. She will check with Colleen to be sure that she does not need any further assistance with the upcoming issue.
 - g. Guests/agenda items for future Staff Council meetings: February Staff Council meeting guests will include Lisa Troyer to discuss the review of the Graduate College and Carol Senneff to discuss activities of the Hancher Charter Committee. Other agenda items for the February meeting include nominations for Staff Council officers for 2004-2005 and presentation of the UIRA recommendations. Items for other future meetings could include inviting various diversity constituency groups as guests, discussion of support for P & S staff whose positions are eliminated, inviting Bruce Wheaton back to discuss intellectual property rights, and inviting someone to discuss the UI Wellness program. It was also suggested that Staff Appreciation Day should be included on the agendas of upcoming meetings.
 - h. Future EC meeting agenda items: Dave said that he would look into the process of requesting to have more Coca Cola funds available to Staff Council. Cheryl Reardon would like to discuss the possibility of reducing the SCOM's hours during the summer. It was also suggested that there might be Staff Council election issues to discuss.
 - i. General Education Funds (GEF) Task Force: Charlie said that President Skorton has established this task force and has requested the President and President-Elect of both, Staff Council and Faculty Senate, to serve on the task force. It is possible that the group will meet weekly and President Skorton has indicated a deadline of April 15, 2004 for the group's recommendations. It was suggested that perhaps Jonathan Carlson, Chair of the Task Force, could be invited as a guest for an upcoming Staff Council meeting.
4. **Items for meeting with President Skorton on Monday, January 26th at 4:00**: Some items suggested include the GEF Task Force and the recent search for Provost.
 5. **Pending Items**: The list of Action Items was reviewed and some changes noted.
 6. **Other stuff/matters from SC meeting**: Dave mentioned that he has received two requests for Coca Cola funds. He briefly described the requests. The EC discussed the merits of both requests and the EC agreed it is a good idea to encourage activities that reward and recognize staff. Due to a limited amount of funds available for this purpose, the EC agreed to offer \$150.00 for each request.
 7. **Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.**

Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting
January 21, 2004
Continued

Future Executive Committee Meetings:	Future Meetings with President Skorton:
Wednesday, 2/18/04, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Monday, 2/23/04, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 3/17/04, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 3/30/04, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
	Thursday, 4/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 5/28/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 6/25/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Thursday, 7/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Thursday, 8/26/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 9/24/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 10/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 11/19/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 12/17/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ella Born, Staff Council Secretary