

**Staff Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 13, 2005 2:30-4:30  
102 Conference Room (CDD)**

**Present:** Chris Annicella, Lori Bassler, David Bergeon, Linda Berquist, Ella Born, Kimberly Chamberlin, Lori Cranston, Janet Duncan, Nancy Fick, David Fitzgerald, John Forys, Jo Ann Franklin, Julie Gilmore, Mary Greer, Mary Heath, Lisa James, David Johnson, Kristy Johnson, Hazel Kerr, Kathy Klein, Deb Kohler, Mary Lee Neuberger, Sara Nichols, Janette Pettus, Sandra Reed, Helen Rittenmeyer, Heather Schnoebelen, Keri Semrau, Sheri Sojka, Barb Spence, Rebecca Stamy, Duncan Stewart, Rachelle Stewart, Sarah Tallman, Jeff Wasson, Jan Waterhouse, Rhonda Weaver, M Michelle Wichman, Michelle Wiegand, Kathryn Wynes,

**Absent:** Nadira Ahmed, Chris Anderson, David Martin, Yiannis Papelis, Cheryl Reardon, Kathleen Renquist, Julie Sexton, Anne Sopher, Al Young

**Administrative Liaisons:** Sue Buckley, Associate Vice President and Director of Human Resources; Kevin Ward, Senior Associate Director of Human Resources

**Guests:** Meredith Hay, Vice President Research; Nancy Noyer, Worklife Programs, Ginny Miller, Civil and Environmental Engineering

**The meeting was called to order at 2:30.**

**1. Review/Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Staff Council Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2005 were reviewed and approved with one revision.
- b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes May 18, 2005 were reviewed with no comments.
- c. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 15, 2005 were reviewed with no comments.

**2. Comments/Regents Report, Sue Buckley:**

- a. **The Board of Regents will meet August 3-4 in Davenport, Iowa.**

**3. Comments, Kevin Ward:**

- a. UI and SEIU reached agreement on the job classifications that will be included in the Research and Academically Related Professionals bargaining unit.
- b. The Decision and Order entered by the Iowa Public Employment Relations Board on July 12, 2005 may be found at [www.uiowa.edu/~perb/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~perb/).
- c. A date for the election will be determined by PERB. Voting will be done by mail ballots. This is the first time voting will be done in this manner. All previous elections have been "on-site". Voting lists and addresses are due to PERB by July

- 19, 2005. PERB hopes to have ballots mailed by the end of July. There will be a two-week period for the ballots to be returned to PERB. Concern for this time frame has been expressed by a number of people. Employees frequently use the first two weeks of August for vacation and the concern is that this will affect staff participation in the election. Staff Council will send a letter to PERB expressing this concern.
- d. It is important for all staff in the bargaining unit to vote. The outcome of the election will be determined by a majority of those who vote.
  - e. If the bargaining unit votes to organize negotiations would begin in the fall for a one-year agreement (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007). This would follow the same schedule as other contracts.

**4. Nominations/Election of Staff Council President-Elect:**

- a. Sandy Reed and Mary Greer were nominated for the President-Elect position. Nominees made brief statements. The Elections Committee distributed, collected, and counted the ballots. Mary Greer was elected as President-Elect.

**5. Meeting with UI Leaders, Research Constituent Concerns, Sara Nichols:**

- a. Research members of Staff Council met with UI leaders on June 29, 2005 to discuss concerns of the research group. Those attending this meeting felt the UI leaders were receptive to hearing from Staff Council research members.
- b. Issues discussed included job security, bridge funding, educational and developmental opportunities, and career ladder.
- c. Vice President Doug True recommended another meeting be scheduled in six weeks.

**6. Vice President Meredith Hay:**

- a. VP Hay expressed her belief that the role of staff is crucial within the university. She emphasized the importance of the Year of Public Engagement. President Skorton's statement about the Year of Public Engagement can be found at [www.uiowa.edu/president/messages/](http://www.uiowa.edu/president/messages/).
- b. The Batelle Report includes recommendations on how to revitalize the economy in Iowa by bringing more and better-paying jobs to the state. Recommendations include focusing investments on what we do well and building a knowledge-based economy. The UI's contributions to improving the economy include drug and pharmaceutical development, medicine and genome therapy.
- c. Funding of NIH grants: Research funding for a psychology study at the University of Iowa has been blocked by Republican Representative Randy Neugebauer from Lubbock by amending a House appropriation bill. The measure has not come up for a Senate vote yet. This bill would circumvent the peer review and federal review process and can impact future funding for research grants.
- d. VP Hay stated the top two challenges for her office as:
  - Rate of federal funding for research appropriations for FY '06
  - Decreasing barriers to interdisciplinary research

**7. Staff Council Business:**

- a. June 6 CIC APSC Conference Call, Ella Born:** Each institution absorbed the cost of their calls thus decreasing the cost to Staff Council.
- The University of Minnesota discussed a proposal in their institution to decrease staff furlough from one year to six months.
  - The University of Illinois is working with a “flat” budget this year and is looking at the University pension plan as a source of revenue.
  - The Wisconsin State Legislature rejected a proposal to fund a domestic partners benefit program suggesting it was too costly.
  - Bylaws were approved for the CIC APSC.
  - The CIC APSC meeting will be in Chicago October 16-17. The University of Iowa is the host.
- b. OVPR Review Committee, Lori Bassler:** Committee members are currently conducting interviews of approximately fifty staff members.
- c. Staff Appreciation Week, Nancy Noyer:** Nancy thanked Staff Council for their financial contribution this event. Thirteen “mini-grants” were awarded across the university. Nancy shared comments from the departments who used these funds to plan events for their staff during Staff Appreciation Week. One concern from Staff Council members was the week chosen for the celebration—a suggestion was made to consider designating a week in February as Staff Appreciation Week. Please forward any comments or ideas about this event to Nancy Noyer.
- d. Update on Shared Governance, Jan Waterhouse:** Jan shared an updated document outlining the three proposed shared governance models. This proposal will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting with President Skorton on July 27. President Skorton’s expectation is that there will be some form of shared governance in every college/organization on campus. Council members provided input on each of the proposed models.
- e. Homecoming Committee, Kathy Klein:** Nadira Ahmed will co-chair the committee again this year with Kathy Klein. Participation in homecoming activities offers Staff Council visibility in the university and the community. All council members are encouraged to participate. A list of homecoming activities can be found the Homecoming 2005 website: [www.uiowa.edu/%7Ehmcoming/](http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Ehmcoming/). The theme for this year is “Hawkeye Fever...It’s Contagious”.
- f. Please note: There will be a Staff Council meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> in 102 Conference Room (CDD).**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lee Neuberger, Secretary