

Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting with President Mason
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2008, 8:00-9:00
101 Jessup Hall Conference Room

Present: Lori Bassler, Mark Fullenkamp, Martha Greer, Diane Hauser, Kathy Klein, Duncan Stewart, Sarah Tallman

Absent: George Hospodarsky, Mary Lee Neuberger

Administrative Liaisons: Sue Buckley, Associate Vice President

Introductions: Executive Committee members introduced themselves to President Mason.

1. President Mason's Comments:

- a. President Mason spoke regarding her upcoming statements for the Faculty Senate meeting this afternoon. President Mason would like to challenge the campus on sustainability. She feels this will be a great message on Earth Day. They propose to promote recycling on campus within the Residence Halls and throughout campus. Currently 20% of the steam used at The University of Iowa is created by burning oat hulls, a byproduct from Quaker Oats. They are looking to increase that to 30% and look at other bio-renewables. A press release regarding this speaking engagement went out last night.
 - i. They are interested in creating an Office of Sustainability. This office would report to Doug True, and then to President Mason.
 - ii. A Steering Committee, an advisory board, would be put together to advise the Sustainability Office.
 - iii. Commit to five new faculty positions. This would create a cluster of individuals who can research and possibly teach as well.
- b. Brian Morelli, Press Citizen, will be doing a story on her first year in office.

2. Benefits Changes:

- a. Duncan spoke regarding the decision process and would like to see a review of this process. He felt it would have been better if Staff had been more involved in the beginning. In the future, he would like to see the Staff Council Executive Committee have more information. He expressed concern with the process and speed involved in the changes that will be implemented.
- b. It has been unclear whether the Funded Retirement Income Committee (FRIC) is still making decisions, or if they are still in the early stages of benefit planning.
- c. It was suggested that Staff Council members could be assigned to possibly attend meetings and report back to the Staff Council.
- d. Sue Buckley encouraged Staff Council to receive regular reports from the FRIC Committee. This is a decision that should be made by the Staff Council President. Discussion followed regarding the level of Staff Council involvement in FRIC.
- e. Although the final decisions have not been made, it is reported that benefits will have changes in allocations.

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3. Buck Report:

- a. The timeline for implementing changes suggested by the Buck Report were discussed. There has been much staff education regarding this matter throughout the process.

4. Brown Bag with President Mason:

- a. Staff Council will be hosting a Brown Bag forum with President Mason on May 12, 2008 from 12:00-1:00 pm in S401 PBB. Drinks and cookies will be provided.
- b. Staff Council will request a summarization of President Mason's first year as president of The University of Iowa. Questions will follow.
- c. Invitations will be discussed with Dawn Pressler following the meeting.
- d. Staff Council is looking forward to the event, and expects a good turnout and many questions for President Mason.

5. Other Business:

- a. President Mason will send the Office of University Relations (OUR) report to Duncan when it becomes available. This will be the third report indicating the need to hire a VP for University of Iowa Relations.
- b. A search is being conducted for a new CEO for UIHC. Campus interviews should be soon.
- c. Interviews for a new Dean of Medicine should begin within a month.

6. Sue Buckley, Associate Vice President Comments:

- a. Initially, the smoke-free campus was scheduled to begin on July 1, 2009; however, due to recent legislative changes, that timeline has been moved to July 1, 2008. This has created some new challenges in several areas.
 - i. Employees who smoke will be encouraged to take advantage of the many smoking cessation programs offered and available through the University.
 - ii. The University will be clarifying their responsibilities regarding enforcement and fines. Previously, the "good citizenship" approach to enforcement has been taken regarding enforcement. Due to legislative changes, that role may be changing to include obligation to enforce including fines to individuals and possibly to the institution for not enforcing. The parameters of the enforcement are being discussed and reviewed.
 - iii. A large challenge will be enforcement at football games. There will be no smoking in Kinnick Stadium anywhere or in cars surrounding Kinnick Stadium.
 - iv. The implementation of this policy will be large. Sue Buckley suggested that Staff Council include this issue in their May and/or June meetings. The committee includes Judie Hermsen, Human Resources; Lori Cranston, Provost Office; Belinda Marner, Student Life; Jonathan Carlson, President's Office; and Joni Troester, Committee Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Bassler, Secretary