

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time:	April 21, 2021 1:30PM	Location:	Zoom
Meeting called by:	Staff Council Exec.	Type of meeting:	Staff Council Monthly Meeting
Facilitator:	Staff Council Exec.	Note taker:	Gina Smith
Attendees:	Barb Weybrew, Elainabeth Russo, Natasha Young, Hilary Steinman, Julie Robertson, Selena Foreman, Melissa Chesnut, Ashley Strickland, Amanda Dempsey, Jenny Bucy, Joshua Smith, Troy Brady, Helen Konstantopoulos, Kiersten Orton, Evan Rand, Ben Rogers, Jack Bucy, Krista Barcus, Michelle Drake, Mike McBride, Gina Smith.		

Organizational Structure Support & Strategic Operations Reports

Leadership Advisory Team – Clarence Green

- Reimplementation of Green Teams.
- Designated parking spaces for military veterans are being added across campus.
- The NLT is studying the future of hybrid and remote work with the aid of the Education Advisory Board (EAB) and Slack software. The NLT also will discuss a pay structure for additional duties and an organizational profile.

Faculty Senate – Gina

- Vaccines are now available to students, but are not required. There is some sentiment for vaccines to be mandatory for dormitory residents in the fall, but this would be difficult for state institutions such as Northwest to enforce.
- As many as eight socially-distanced graduation ceremonies may be offered. The ceremonies will take place in Bearcat Arena, but without speakers or members of the Board of Regents. Graduating students are limited to four guests each. Students who graduated in 2020 but had no ceremonies due to Covid mitigation have been invited to participate along with the 2021 graduates.
- New student success software will be loaded on April 30th; the Northwest 360 software currently in use will be closed.

Student Senate – Natasha

- The Senate's last meeting of the academic year was April 13th; during which the executive board was chosen for the upcoming year; otherwise no specific news. The new board is:
- Executive seats for 2021-2022
 - President: Bailey Hendrickson
 - Vice President: Hunter Grantham
 - Secretary: Chloe Kallhoff
 - Treasurer: Jenna Lee-Johnson

Board of Regents – Troy

- Troy was unable to attend the meeting to take notes; he will receive and distribute a summary from the board secretary. He noted that two new members have been sworn in and will bring new ideas and energy to the group.

Benefits & Wellness Committee – Elainabeth Russo

- The Wellness Challenge is in progress with 81 participants. The committee is examining ways to better serve the campus community in all aspects of wellness – spiritual and social as well as physical; watch for positive changes coming soon. Krista pointed out the notes on resources listed at the end of the monthly HR newsletter which is distributed campus-wide via email.

Ally Affinity Group - Helen Konstantopoulos

- April 28th will be the next meeting for the spring. Helen called attention to a recent NPR story highlighting bystander training for witnesses to anti-Asian hate incidents. <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/03/983406365/in-response-to-anti-asian-hate-incidents-groups-step-up-trainings-for-bystanders?sc=18&f=1001> . This article will be discussed during the April meeting and leaders will be chosen for the upcoming year.
- May events: Cinco de Mayo cleanup day on campus May 5 at 5:00 p.m.; participants are urged to wear their ally shirts. A wok barbecue is planned to take place at the Pavilion with the ABE and LGBTQIA+ groups on May 20.
- The group's last meeting for spring will be on Wednesday, May 26th at noon and summer meeting times will be discussed.

Old Business Items: None.

New Business Items

- Troy reiterated the need for Staff Council representatives on the renewed Green Teams; please let him know by 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 23rd of interest in any of the Green Team areas of focus.
- Krista explained origins, purposes, schedules and composition of Green Teams.
- The May meeting of Staff Council will be a pizza party for those member who choose to attend in person, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. A Zoom link still will be available for those unable to come to the ballroom. Natasha noted that the May meeting will include a combination of current and newly-elected incoming Council members for information sharing. Current members should send this meeting's minutes to their areas, including new members.
- Helen Konstantopolous proposed adding a Diversity and Inclusion report, similar to the Ally Affinity Group report, to the monthly agenda.

Committee Reports

Employee Engagement and Recognition Committee – Selena Foreman

- Review of popcorn distribution. 400 bags of popcorn were distributed and received positive feedback.
- Bearcat Bash planning. Faculty Senate will not be involved in planning or contributing to the event, but faculty who are still on campus will be welcome. It will take place on May 26th at the Pavilion from 4 to 6 p.m., with the inclement weather location at the Hughes Fieldhouse; the committee is consulting with Spencer Martin for a cash bar. Music, door prizes and games will be available. A suggestion was made to include Northwest Kansas City staff in employee events. The committee is considering monthly events for employees during the summer months, such as cash bar happy hours.
- Notebooks may be provided for distribution to incoming new Staff Council members.

Outreach Committee –

- An attachment outlining the new NW 360 implementation timeline was shared, with instructions to communicate with Ashley Strickland if there are questions. Joshua Smith provided a general outline of the committee's activities during the past year and will communicate this information to the new committee, as he will be the only continuing member.

Policy Committee -

- Natasha shared the incoming new representative list.
- The chair-elect position serves as the backup for the chair for occasions when the chair is unable to be present; the chair-elect also is usually in charge of finances and works closely with the Outreach Committee, so this position should be filled as soon as possible. Interested members are urged to send a message to the Staff Council email address.
- A discussion took place regarding updating the 1:20 ratio currently in the charter.

Engagement Survey Action Items: None.

Employee Suggestions/Comments/Concerns

Julie Robertson suggested providing sidewalk chalk for employees to draw hopscotch grids on the sidewalks around campus during the summer as stress relief, or as a method for encouraging people to look up from their phones and engage with nature and with other pedestrians. She also called attention to the hammocks positioned around campus.

Announcements / Area Reports

- Troy Brady will move into the position of Energy and Sustainability manager as of May 3rd. He expressed appreciation for the good wishes he's received.
- Julie Robertson asked how often the leadership re-evaluates the mask mandate, which continues to be in force on campus. She announced that her replacement in the TRIO office will join the staff at the beginning of summer. Krista mentioned that with reinstatement of Green Teams, the work on Covid mitigation measures, including the mask mandate, will be discussed.
- Helen Konstantopolous promoted the KXCV Run for Radio 5K fundraiser, and emphasized that participation is a way to have fun, get healthy and help the radio station.

Next Meeting

May 19, 1:30pm- 3:30pm Union Ballroom.