

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time:	May 19, 2021 1:30PM	Location:	J.W. Jones Union and Zoom
Meeting called by:	Staff Council Exec.	Type of meeting:	Staff Council Monthly Meeting
Facilitator:	Staff Council Exec.	Note taker:	Gina Smith
Attendees:	Troy Brady, Natasha Young, Travis Kline, Gina Smith, Clarence Green, Krista Barcus, Barb Weybrew, Evan Rand, Elainabeth Russo, Hilary Pritchett, Julie Robertson, Selena Foreman, Melissa Chesnut, Alisa Meyer (for Amanda Dempsey), Jenny Bucy, Joshua Smith, Helen Konstantopoulos, Kiersten Orton, Will McDonough, Ben Rogers, Michelle Drake, Mike McBride, Bridget Clark, Lisa Crater, Sierra Rains, Connie Murphy, Adam Randles, Katy Schwartz Drowns, Tony Christian, John Vanderpool, Marsha Martin, Kala Dixon, Jill Kain.		

Organizational Structure Support & Strategic Operations Reports

Leadership Advisory Team – Clarence Green and Krista Barcus

- The resolution to compensate staff for additional duties did not move out of committee for a vote. The NLT will continue working to resolve the issues which prevented forwarding of the resolution.
- Covid mitigation measures have been modified, since there are no current cases in Nodaway County.
- Some items have been removed from the Covid dashboard; expect weekly updates between now and August 1st. The mandate for face coverings continues until June 7th.
- Krista displayed and explained the lactation policy, which is being drafted in accordance with the federal guidelines currently followed by the university. All employees applying for maternity leave will receive a copy of the policy and instructions for access to the lactation room. Only one room is currently designated for the purpose, but backup rooms are available.
- The shift differential policy under discussion will apply to second and third shift employees once the budget has been approved, which is expected to happen in June.

Faculty Senate – Gina

- No news from Faculty Senate relevant to staff activities.

Student Senate – Natasha

- No news from Student Senate, which will not meet again until fall term.

Board of Regents – Troy

- Meeting report is attached.

Benefits & Wellness Committee – Elainabeth Russo

- The “Bright Lights Big City” challenge has wrapped up with participation by 104 employees logging 32 million steps over a six week period. The challenge was well received; the committee would like to see more participation in future challenges.

Ally Affinity Group - Helen Konstantopoulos

- The Cinco de Mayo cleanup took place on Fourth Street from 5:00 to 7:00 with good turnout. The wok barbecue originally scheduled for May 20 is now planned to take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pavilion with the ABE and LGBTQIA+ groups on May 27.
- The group’s last meeting for spring will be on Wednesday, May 26th at noon, when summer meeting times will be discussed. Members are asked to complete a Doodle survey to determine the optimal dates and times. Terra Feick is replacing Ashlee Hendrix as the facilitator. New employees are welcome and urged to join.

Old Business Items: None.

New Business Items

- The June meeting location will be determined after an estimated attendance headcount.

Committee Reports

Employee Engagement and Recognition Committee – Selena Foreman

- All staff and faculty are invited to attend a Bearcat Bash scheduled for May 26th at the Ray Courter Pavilion from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with the Hughes Fieldhouse as the inclement weather location. The Bash includes complimentary food, a cash bar, music, and door prizes. Mitigation measures will be in effect. The committee plans to deliver breakfast pizzas to employees whose work schedules are other than 8:00 to 5:00, and an option for Northwest-Kansas City employees who are unable to attend is being planned.

Outreach Committee – the incoming committee chair is Marsha Martin.

Policy Committee - Natasha Young

- Natasha displayed a chart showing the newly-elected Staff Council members and their assigned committees. A monthly list of new employees will be shared beginning in June.
- Joshua Smith will serve as the chair-elect.
- The removal of an Organizational Structure Support and Strategic/University Operations table which previously was included in the responsibilities section of the Charter was approved without objection.

Engagement Survey Action Items: None.

Employee Suggestions/Comments/Concerns: None.

Announcements / Area Reports

- Krista Barcus announced two new Human Resources staff members; a compliance specialist who will begin working on June 14th and McKenna Heller, who has been working since early May . She reminded the group that staff members needing information from the HR office during the staff's displacement for utility upgrades during the week of June 1 through 4 should contact HR via email. In response to a question, Krista noted that in-person new employee orientations, which were conducted remotely during Covid mitigation, have resumed.
- Julie Robertson announced that Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science will resume on-campus visits in June.
- Helen Konstantopoulos reported that as part of a 50th-anniversary celebration the campus National Public Radio station KXCV-KRNW will broadcast live on July 24th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the station's former site, which was destroyed in a fire. Alumni broadcasters will be on campus to participate.
- Adam Randles reminded those present that the buildings undergoing utility service disruptions should not be occupied when the power is out.

Next Meeting

June 16, 1:30pm- 3:30pm, location to be determined by estimated attendance.

BOR Report 5/06/2021

Board of Regents Report

Staff Council

5/06/2021

-Minutes for March and April submitted and approved.

-Summer Faculty appointments submitted and approved.

-Professional base learning examples were spotlighted.

- Nursing programs
- Gold program
- etc.

-School of Education accreditation was extended to 2027.

-Construction utilizing 1.6 million grant proceeding well at Brown Hall.

-UPD recently received their Department of Justice certification.

-Northwest has been recognized as a Military friendly Institution for the 10th year.

-We continue having the best placement rates in the state at undergrad 96%, grad 99%.

-Student Success

- 1 of 5 institutions selected by the American Association of State Colleges & Universities and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to a cohort focused on student success.

-Northwest is currently 1st in fiscal efficiency in the state and 2nd in financial responsibility.

-This year's graduation saw 1275 degrees earned.

- 761 Undergrad
- 514 Graduate
- 452 Masters
- 62 Education Specialist

-Meeting moved to closed session.