

Staff Representative Meeting Notes
April 10, 2007

Staff Representative Alana Davis welcomed all to the April meeting.

- From College Council – Alana announced that the following was announced at the College Council meeting:
 - The Dance Marathon was a great success, raising almost \$18,000 for the Children’s Miracle Network.
 - The weekly “Coffee at the Fountain” was scheduled to begin again as of March 31. Hopefully this coming Monday the weather will cooperate and staff, faculty, and students will gather for coffee, tea, and sweet rolls.
 - R-MC has mailed the formal response to SACS regarding our accreditation.
 - Athletics – both men’s and women’s basketball teams won 20 games this season, that Molly Ariail was named ODAC Player of the Year, that Lindsey Rieseck was named First Team all-ODAC and that Amanda Hiltunen was honored as ODAC Student-Athlete of the Year
 - Registrar Marilyn Gibbs reported that we are expecting close to 240 students to graduate this May
 - Summer hours have not been voted on by the Cabinet, but there is no reason to think that they will be different from Summer 2007.
 - It was suggested that there needs to be better directions for visitors to campus that may be accessed easily – perhaps a large sign. It was also suggested that there be maps of the Town of Ashland available to visitors to campus.
- Meeting with President Lindgren – At Alana’s meeting with President Lindgren, the following was discussed:
 - It is time to develop a new strategic plan for the college. A staff member has been appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee – Mary Neal.
 - The master planning process will come to a close in May with a final presentation from the consulting firm.
 - Dean of Students candidates are visiting campus and yesterday there was a good response with 15-20 staff members in attendance. Please attend the

open sessions if at all possible. The DOS candidates need to see that we are an “engaged” campus.

- Admissions – Alana gave the following report about applications received for Fall 2008:
 - There have been over 3550 applications which is a new record and an increase of almost 10% over last year
 - To date, there have been over 2000 students “accepts” which equates to a 56% accept rate, which is the 2nd most selective acceptance ever
 - About 150 students have sent in enrollment deposits – goal is 400 – deposit deadline is May 1
- Alana met with Sharon Jackson, HR Director in late March and learned that this year’s Summerfest date will be June 11th. The Employee Recognition Committee also discussed that there will likely be a family picnic and other activities at a possible Family Fall Festival. The benefit to fall is that there would be more faculty around and staff would be less likely to be on vacation. The weather would be more pleasant as well.
- FYE - Alana met with Chas. Gowan who is the Director of the First Year Experience Program. Chas has asked that Alana announce that the current administration does support staff participation in the FYEC program:
 - Staff who are interested in teaching an FYEC and who are qualified by SACS standards, which in most cases is at least a master’s degree, should explore their options. It would certainly still come down to supervisory approval, but the perceived roadblock that the Provost’s Office would not support staff participation is not there.
- Staff Rep Website – Alana announced that she has updated the Staff Representative page of the R-MC website to include the current Staff Rep contact information. She noted that the Anonymous contact form is working and that she has tested it.

She will be updating the page over the next week or so, removing broken links, and adding our meeting minutes to the site. Hopefully it will soon become a fully operational resource for the information regarding staff issues.

Old Business

- A suggestion was made to have Chartwells send out an update of hours during breaks, etc. and Alana emailed a request to Mark Devlin about this.

New Business

- Benefits Committee
 - Saleema Ansari and Janice Cooper are the staff representatives on this committee through May 31st. We need to be thinking about nominations for the next staff rep meeting in May. We will take nominations at May meeting and following the meeting. We will hold elections late in the week on May 12th.
 - Alana proposed the idea of staggering the terms of the Benefits Committee staff reps using rotation of positions.

She suggested the following options:

- Idea one – nominate for a 1 year positions and a 2 year position. Hold elections on the same day.
- Idea two – nominate as one group. Hold elections one day for the 2 year position. Hold elections a couple of days later for the 1 year position out of the same group of nominees.

Staff agreed with the idea of staggering the terms and discussion ensued.

The following idea was also proposed and adopted:

Nominations will take place in May for Benefits Staff Rep and only one election would take place. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected for two years. The candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will be elected for one year. Going forward after this election, representatives would be elected for two year terms.

- Casual Dress – An anonymous suggestion came through the website regarding the issue of staff members wearing casual dress at various times. This prompted discussion with suggestions offered by several staff members:
 - Some Fridays aren't good because Board of Trustees members are here for meetings
 - Can be a problem to always be dressed casually because we need to look well-dressed for prospective students

- Encourage staff to wear black and yellow
- Janice Cooper – have people donate \$1 to a fund to be able to wear casual dress
- Barclay DuPriest – suggested “Spirit Day Friday”, possibly once-a-month where casual R-MC attire could be worn
- Business Casual on Fridays and Spring Break
- Barclay DuPriest – we need to define “casual” – could it include polo shirt, khakis, sandals, not jeans? What else?
- Margaret Ann King: thinks capris are too casual for business casual.

The next Staff Representative Meeting will take place on May 8th.

--Notes submitted by Sally Gudas.