Staff Council
Minutes of April 8, 2014
Kendall 207-209, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
(Subject to Council approval)

Attendance: Lynn Abbiati, Sharyn Abernatha, Tammy Bassi, Michelle Berglund-Smith, Jo Ann Bradley, Mary Kay Bringham, Rebecca Cagle, Mario Chandrakumar, Melissa Cheatham, Donald Converse, Joe Crotts, Nicole Davis, Becky DeVault, Dana Francis, Annette Heilesen, Michelle Holmes, Cindy Kelly, Ronda Kramer, Barbara LaRue, Rena Marino, Nicole McAllister, Jackie McMillan, Nathan Methvin-Terry, Margie Mitchell, Melanie O’Connor, Tawnie Peterson, Laurie Ratterree, Holly Soldavini, Rachelle Sousa, Scott Taylor, Yer Thao

Absent: Chris Gardner, Taylor Herrin, Erin Tarabini, Cari Phipps, Jessica Verardi, Josh Whittinghill, Karla Zimmerlee

Meeting Commence: 8:38 am

Call To Order: Michelle Berglund-Smith

Announcements: none

Approval of minutes – March 11th meeting: approved

Human Resources: Sharyn Abernatha: The de-escalation training that was sponsored by the Sheriff’s Department was held yesterday and was a big success. We will be offering another one of these trainings. It was 2.5 hour long training and several people commented that is was very beneficial to them. There is a change in law about questions you can ask applicants about disabilities. There will be a notice sent to all current employees about their disability status. The Chancellor’s Office is trying to get it on self-service, otherwise a form will be sent out for employees to complete and it will be kept in their record. If we can use self-service then we will also ask about employee’s Veteran’s status.

Payroll & HRIS: Rebecca Cagle: We are still working through the fallout issues with the pay increases and our goal is to have it wrapped up by the end of April. We are finished with the CMS reauthorization process and are getting ready for veterans and disability status to track the new requirements. Employees will log in through the portal to update their statuses. Employees can choose not to answer these questions, it is not required. This information will be used for reports to the federal government.

Associated Students: Nicole McAllister: AS campaigning is happening right now. Voting starts April 15th and will be electronic through a link on the website. Please engage with candidates and encourage students to vote. Voting is all online but students can fill out a paper ballot if they prefer.
**Academic Senate: Joe Crotts:** The Academic Senate met on March 13 and April 3. The next meeting will be April 24. The proposed discontinuation of Outdoor Education Option (BA in KINE) failed by a vote of 25 to 8. The Senate approved to discontinue the online option in LVN to BSN (BS in Nursing). The proposal for Time, Place, and Manner of Free Expression was passed as an introduction and it will be an action item at next meeting. Senate members expressed concerns that the proposal needs clarification in several areas. Passed as introduction item an Online Education Policy and it will return as action item. Passed as introduction item RSCA Internal Grants Committee. We need clarification to this proposal and recommended that the committee present a substitute document that take into consideration the concerns expressed. There was a proposed revision to Faculty Recognition and Support where an Outstanding Lecturer award was added. Nominations opened up for 2014-2015 Academic Senate officers. Nomination will close on April 24. Nominations also opened for one Statewide Senator position for a three year term. Nominations will close on April 24. The March 13 meeting concluded with a senator sharing observations regarding the Academic Calendar. A major concern was breaking intersession classes over the New Year holiday and beginning spring semester classes on a Tuesday. The April 3 concluded with a discussion on the state of morale on campus. Issues noted included: workload, buried in paperwork and policies, not enough staff support, technical support, and compensation. It was stated that “It’s not fun anymore”. Positions being eliminated or downsized by up to 2 levels and Deans are leaving the campus. The longest standing Dean has only been here 2 months. Class size is going up and we are expected to do more and more for less and less.

**Office of the President: Karla Zimmerlee:** Karla absent, no report.

**Guest Speaker:** No guest speaker this month.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Ways & Means: Nathan Methvin-Terry:**
- Staff Awards Luncheon is this Thursday, April 10th. Thank you to Rachelle Sousa for organizing the torch video. The committee will meet after the meeting today.

**Governance Committee: Becky DeVault:**
- Thank you for sending updated area lists.
- An email was sent out about shared governance. Laurie Ratterree will resend the email. Please consider participating in one of the many campus committees.

**Service Projects – Cindy Kelly:**
- Staff Academic Award presentation to recipient Carmelo Miranda from Upward Bound Math & Science Projects.
- Staff and Faculty Art Exhibit – the art is now displayed in Kendall Hall. We received 72 entries total. A big thank you to Scott Taylor who did a great job helping to hang the art. Within the week the people’s choice box will be out. An
announcement will also be sent out about the people’s choice award voting. The reception will take place on May 8th.

Other/New Business: The Board and Bike Safety Initiative has started and invitations to be on the ad-hoc committee are going out this week. It will be next semester before the initiative really takes effect. Staff Council members are wondering if staff/faculty are allowed to take bikes to their offices? Staff Council is formatting our nominations for the Executive Board to take place at the next meeting. Holly has 7 more boxes of See’s candy to sell if anyone needs some.

Intent to Raise Question: None

Adjournment: 9:35