Staff Senate Minutes  
Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
9:00 AM, Billingsly Board Room #310

Members Present: Josh Doak, Ted Wright, Erik Hilgendorf, Greg Killingsworth, Olive Talley, Debbie Woodmansee, Bob Harrington, Julie Wengert and Mike Davies.

Member(s) Absent / Excused: Ann Quade and Gary Edwards

Determination of Quorum: Nine of eleven active members present; quorum established.

Call to Order: Erik Hilgendorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Erik called for changes in the minutes; there being none asked for a motion to approve; Mike Davies motioned and Julie Wengert seconded; all in favor; motion carried and the minutes from the August 11, 2010 were approved as written.

Administrative Comments: None

Committee Reports:
A. Communications Committee – Nothing to report

B. Election Committee – Josh Doak reported that nominations were being accepted through Friday, September 17th. Elections would take place Monday, September 27th - Thursday, September 30th. Like the last election, e-mail balloting would be accepted each day of election week and in-person balloting would take place the afternoon of Wednesday, September 29th and morning of Thursday, September 30th. Location of in-person balloting to be determined.

C. Benefits Committee–The Benefits sub-committee selected to solicit the staff on choice of keeping Superior Service Awards as is with three recipients getting $1,000/each or increasing recipients to six and getting $500/each. Rationale behind idea of expansion was staff input for change and more recognition to deserving staff members. Earlier ideas of using the funds to reward all staff with gift card or food were ruled out since it would be an imposition for the Foundation.

D. Executive Budget Committee – Nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None
Comments and Announcements/Guest Input:

A. Erik opened the floor for comments.
   a. Julie Wengert accepted task of serving as a member of the Staff Senate on the 75th Anniversary Committee.
   b. Julie Wengert announced that the Leadership Academy is seeking nominations for the 2010-2011 class.
   c. The topic of campus beautification was presented by Erik Hilgendorf. He mentioned that Mr. Hanrahan was encouraging campus organizations to streamline projects to help upkeep the University gardens/flower beds.
      i. Bob Harrington mentioned he appreciates organizations stepping up to help, but that the Physical Plant is still carrying the load to remake gardens since they are still providing materials and more skilled labor. Labor efforts that can help the Physical Plant are weeding and cleaning current beds. Help will be accepted, but it must be controlled.
      ii. Olive Talley commented that we don’t need more foliage, just cleaning and trim work on the current gardens. If possible, maybe departments can adopt trees/gardens to water or upkeep.
      iii. Bob Harrington also commented that the University received a Trim Grant that would pay for forestry agent to record types of trees on campus and to provide two day training to grounds workers on proper maintenance and care of plants and trees.
         1. Long-term goal is to use forestry agent’s records to evaluate what trees are needed so that every tree native to Missouri would be represented on campus. Additional long-term goals are to create an arboretum that would have a plaque placed in front of each tree giving tree’s name, scientific name and donor name (if applicable).
         2. The Physical Plant does have a list of trees that the University is seeking to add when organizations/clubs wish to donate tree. Basic cost of trees on list is in the $150 range.
   d. A guest commented that the Staff Senate meeting needs to be advertise the meeting dates the day prior to the meeting to give better notice to those who are not able to read University Announcements promptly the day of.
   e. A guest expressed that the Superior Service awards is to recognize Superior Service, and that adding additional recipients may dampen the esteem.
      i. Erik Hilgendorf mentioned that this viewpoint was presented during Benefit sub-committee discussion. Primary reason for looking into change is due to amount of staff who requested that the Staff Senate look to change the process and distribution. No formal request to change current system will be done till vote by staff body is completed.
      ii. Dialogue was expressed asking what constitutes superior service and how are they selected. No one in the audience or on Staff Senate was able to address the criteria of what constitutes superior service. A couple individuals who have been part of the committee stated each member reads through the nominations, selects their top choice in each staff category, submits their ballot to the committee selection chairperson, and that person determines the winners.
         1. Concerns of the process were expressed by various individuals that formal definition of superior service needs to be created, and that at least two people should be viewing ballots from the Superior Service Committee to select the winners instead of one.
      iii. New ideas presented included:
         • Take nominations year-round so that superior service acts would be easier to documents when they happen
         • If the amount of awards changes to 6, break down to three awards every six months instead of all at the same time, and allow people to nominate two people in each category instead of just one.
         • Give recognition to superior service each week in Accents.
         • Allowing nominations written to be given to nominees, even if they do not win Superior Service Award. The intrinsic value would be significant morale booster to those individuals.
Adjournment:  Erik asked if there was any other business to bring to the table for the benefit of the order.  There being none, Julie Wengert made the motion that the meeting be adjourned; Greg Killingsworth seconded the motion; motion carried; meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Next Meeting:  Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 9:00 AM.  Billingsly Student Center room 310 (Board room).

Respectfully submitted by:
Josh Doak