

Marshall University Classified Staff Council Minutes

November 18, 2010, John Spotts Room (MSC 2E37)

Members Present: Nina Barrett, Diana Bradley, Johnny Bradley, Bernice Bullock, Tootie Carter, Toni Ferguson, Carol Hurula, William Lewis, Leonard Lovely, Dwayne McCallister, Jan Parker, Kelly Preston, Jennings Stiltner, Joe Wortham

Members Absent: Barbara Black, Mike Dunn, Ronnie Hicks, Jennifer Jimison, Annalisha Johnson, Okey Napier, Kris Standifur

Guests: Dr. Stephen Kopp, Matt Turner, Michelle Douglas, Debra Hart, Patsy Stephenson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nina L. Barrett and Joe Wortham verified a quorum was present.

Dr. Stephen Kopp – University President

Dr. Kopp reported they just finished and finalized the refinance of the 2001A Bonds, which encompass the Harless Dining Hall, the Commons, and the parking facility. The bonds were priced on Nov. 4, a day that interest rates were very favorable, he said. Had they waited until Nov. 9, it could have cost the university more than \$1 million. Dr. Kopp said the savings then would have only been \$500,000 instead of the \$1.7 million that will come back to the university during the next two years.

Dr. Kopp mentioned that we are very interested in the political landscape of Charleston now that the governor is now our US Senator. One of the biggest questions is whether there will be a special election for the governor. If there is a special election for governor it will be interesting to see what happens during the legislative session. They are trying to anticipate both sides of the situation: if there will be a special election or if there won't be. If there is a call for a special election for a new governor, it will change the dynamics of the upcoming legislative session.

Dr. Kopp also encouraged employees to visit the State Budget Office's website and view the five-year projections presentation. He says it's not a pretty picture, they're projecting a \$525 million deficit in 2015. He said the outlook isn't bad for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, but the 2012-2013 fiscal year will be pivotal. Kopp said lawmakers have to approve a balanced budget, meaning any shortfalls will be met with budget cuts. Higher education already has seen recent cuts by the state, only to be back-filled with federal stimulus money. But those dollars are gone at the end of this current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2011.

Ms. Michelle Douglas – Human Resources

Michelle reported that she had attended the ACCE meeting earlier in the morning and that it was very informative.

Michelle also attended an HRA meeting three weeks ago, and as a group they are reviewing many processes.

Things that we are looking at here at Marshall: a PIQ timeline/form and Performance Evaluations.

Michelle opened the floor to questions:

How is the process going for updating the Classified Staff Handbook? Michelle has not convened a committee yet. Leonard Lovely and Johnny Bradley volunteered to serve once it is formed.

Does seniority factor into making requests for annual leave? Michelle responded that she would have to see the specific concern, but the use of seniority in the decision making process is an accepted practice.

Michelle recommended that anyone interested should register for the Diversity Training that Debbie Hart will be conducting in the spring. The information should be able to be found on the HR training site.

Ms. Debbie Hart – Equity Programs

Debbie reported that the Equity office was staying busy, but there were no specific items to report.

Patsy Stephenson – Classified Staff Member

Ms. Stephenson was invited as a guest speaker to speak on the topic of Dr. Paul Ambrose. Ambrose, who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, worked for the Surgeon General's office on public health issues, particularly obesity. With the 10th anniversary of the 9/11/01 tragedy coming up next year, it is the desire of Staff Council and many people in the community to have the Marshall University Recreation Center named after Dr. Ambrose. If that is not possible, at least having a room named after him would be desired. Ms. Stephenson elaborated on the life and contributions of Dr. Ambrose.

Committee Reports:

Election Committee – Joe Wortham – Joe reported that the special election announcement went out in the November 4th edition of the We Are Marshall Newsletter. The election will take place on December 7th by paper ballot and from December 9th to December 13th by electronic voting. The election is to approve or disprove suggested changes to Article VIII of the Classified Staff Constitution.

Personnel/Finance Committee – Johnny Bradley – Johnny reported that the number of illegal downloads done on campus is still high, and they involve both students and staff. He discussed what defines illegal downloads, how to prevent it, and some of the consequences associated with illegal downloads. Johnny also reported that the committee will be reviewing the Classified Staff Handbook and helping Human Resources with updating it.

Physical Environment Committee – Bill Lewis – Committee did not meet.

Staff Development Committee – Carol reported that the committee was looking into options for the staff Christmas project. She is looking into collecting items for the Veterans Home and the Madison Park Nursing Home. Katie reported that the Staff Council Office is taking applications for Tuition Waivers for the Spring semester. The number of applications submitted has already surpassed those submitted for the Fall semester, and the deadline for submission is December 1st. It is already apparent that there will not be enough e-course waivers to meet the demand, so the committee may need to look into requesting more.

Faculty Senate Committees

Physical Facilities and Planning Committee – Bill Lewis – Bill reported that Dr. Kopp attended the meeting on the 17th and reported that there were a lot of projects for the future but the funding is not there.

Announcements:

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken and prepared by: _____
Katie M. Counts, Program Assistant, Staff Council

Minutes approved by: _____
Nina L. Barrett, Chair, Staff Council

Minutes read by: _____
Stephen J. Kopp, University President