

Washburn University Staff Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021

Members Present – Christa Smith, Meagan Smejdir, Jan Martin, Nancy Province, Blaine Smith, Jackie Askren, Gayla Sarkesian, Leah Brown, Jennifer Bixel

Members Not Present – Marie Hall, Kathy Iwig, Emily Schneider, Drew Liggett, James Scotti

Guests – Carissa Johnson, Tisha Prather

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christa Smith at 3:06pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance was taken by Zoom chat.
- III. Approval of August 2021 Minutes (Motion)
 - a. Voting
 - i. Motion – Jackie Askren
 - ii. Second – Jan Martin
 - iii. Votes
 1. Yay – 9
 2. Nay – 0
 3. Abstain – 0
- IV. Committee Reports:
 - a. Chair Report – Christa Smith
 - i. Meeting with Dr. Farley 9/13
 1. Vaccine mandate from the federal government – we are exempt because we are a municipal university; our guidance comes from the Shawnee County Health Dept
 - a. Washburn is not currently mandating vaccines, but there is the incentive program – check your email for additional information about this program!
 - b. Board of Regents Meeting Update – Christa Smith
 - i. Next meeting is 9/16
 - ii. Christa will attend, take notes, and share info at a later date
 - c. All Faculty/Staff Email/Posting Committee – Jackie Askren, Christa Smith
 - i. Update from Mark Fried – met with ITS about a rough prototype that will be run through Washburn ITS; they will call a committee meeting once they have finalized more details to share
 - ii. Has anything changed with the procedures for sending information from the all faculty/staff emails? We have not heard of any changes.

- d. Benefits Committee – Jennifer Bixel, Emily Schneider, Christa Smith
 - i. 8/26
 - 1. Watco Benefits Group gave presentation regarding benefits and trends
 - a. Renewing medical and dental with BCBS for 2022, rates locked in for one more year
 - b. In 2020 we had less claims, which is not surprising
 - c. In 2021 we have had an increase in claims; this was predicted
 - d. Looking to keep the cost of benefits flat, and working with BCBS on this process
 - e. Looking at the prescription program, and considering mandatory generic prescriptions (rather than the name brand)
 - f. The premiums will NOT be increased this year, and there will be no changes submitted to WUBOR for review
 - g. EAP through New Directions will be increasing in price, so they have chosen to go with a different partnership that is more fee for service
 - h. Open enrollment will tentatively be 10/26-11/4 – look for an email with additional information about this
 - e. Food Advisory Committee – Jan Martin
 - i. Everything is open and running well!
 - f. Parking Ticket Committee – Leah Brown and Blaine Smith
 - i. No meeting
 - g. Safety Committee – Jackie Askren
 - i. August meeting
 - 1. Heather is working on website
 - 2. COVID – wear mask while indoors on campus
 - 3. KDHE accepted hazmat review, they need updated information on the glaze used in ceramics/Art areas
 - 4. Facilities – staff is shorthanded, so please be considerate if you have an issue; trying to fill in with temporary staffing because they are having a tough time filling positions; if you have an issue, please contact Eric Just
 - 5. Still working on parking lot lights
 - 6. Lots of trucks near the law school construction, but no major issues yet
 - 7. Next project – replacing the patio behind BTAC
 - 8. Crosswalk update – no solution yet regarding lighting
 - 9. 11/5 is Fire Prevention week, some activities on campus
 - 10. Chemistry Dept attended fire extinguisher training with Heather

V. Old Business:

- a. Staff Council Elections have started
 - i. If you are in an area where the term for the representative is expiring, you should have received an email regarding nominations
 - 1. We have 5 areas with open representatives
 - 2. We have only 3 nominations, so we are hoping to receive more
 - a. If we do not have more nominations, we may be asking representatives who are currently serving to consider serving another term

3. Please nominate colleagues or yourself, and encourage colleagues to do the same
 4. Bylaws state that representatives can serve two consecutive terms, but will need to step away for one year or one term
- ii. Nominations stop on 9/17

VI. New Business:

- a. No new business

VII. Informational Items:

- a. Christa was approached by WSGA to help with a voting initiative; they are hoping to gather information and support from students, faculty, and staff regarding the upcoming voting
- b. Thank you to all representatives who have served their two year terms and who are rotating out – we appreciate your service!
- c. Family Day is September 25th with activities all weekend, including the football game
- d. Next Meeting: October 12, 2021, 3pm-4pm via Zoom Video Conference and in the Lincoln Room, Memorial Union

VIII. Adjournment (Motion)

- a. Motion – Blaine Smith
- b. Second – Jan Martin
- c. Vote
 - i. Yay – 9
 - ii. Nay - 0
 - iii. Abstain – 0

Minutes submitted by Staff Council Secretary Meagan Smejdir.