

MINUTES
Staff Senate Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2008
12-1pm M218

Departments represented: Advancement, Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Arts & Sciences Dean, Civil Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Engineering Dean, Enrollment Services, Housing, Humanities/Social Science/Communication, Information Technology, Library, Management, Marketing/Alumni Relations, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Natural Sciences, Student Affairs, VITRC

Staff Council pictures were taken.

Chair Varvara Burden called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. Each member of the Staff Council rose and introduced him/herself. **Members for the 2008-09 Staff Council** are:

Varvara Burden, Chair (President/Provost)
Joyce Genat, Vice-Chair (Dean of Students)
Marilyn Hotaling – Secretary (Library)
Allie Barnard (Architecture Dean)
Megan Fuhlman (Architecture/Design)
Frank deHesselle (Student Affairs)
Will Liska (Registrar)
Brandon Spencer (Marketing/Public Affairs)
Beth St. Thomas (Registrar)

Ten new staff members were given LTU mugs as **welcome gifts**, and the six outgoing Staff Council members were given bookstore gift cards. A special gift was given to Rachel Cronover for her graphics assistance to the Staff Senate.

The seven Staff Senate committees were briefly described: Legislative (Cathy Phillips), Staff Recognition (Beth St. Thomas), Staff Development (Will Liska), Facilities (Cliff Johnson), Social Committee, Community Outreach, and Health/Wellness. The Social, Community Outreach and Health committees need chairpersons.

A committee sign-up sheet was circulated.

Cathy Phillips (Chair, Legislative Committee) handed out copies of the present **Staff Senate Bylaws** and their proposed changes, then briefly described the work of the Legislative Committee: (1) Conduct an annual election of Staff Council members and (2) Periodic revision of the bylaws. She went through the list of proposed changes. There will be three chances to revise the bylaws – at the present meeting (verbally), via e-mail (each staff member will receive an online copy and will be able to respond with changes), and at the October 29 Staff Senate meeting, when everyone will have a chance to make any last-minute changes and vote on the proposed changes.

Varvara described the newly-organized **Conflict Resolution Committee**, comprised of administrators, staff and faculty, and sponsored by Human Resources. This committee will be a forum for grievances that cannot be resolved at the departmental level.

Varvara reported that the **Leadership seminars** will have both a staff and a faculty component for each event.

The **Open Forum meetings with Dr. Walker** will be held on September 30 at 12:30pm, and October 1 at 4:30pm, in S100.

The next Staff Senate meeting (October 29), will host a presentation on the new calendar tool, **CORE** (Calendar of Reservations and Events), presented by Beth Gierada and Gabe Sauvie of the Registrar's Office.

The staff was urged to give their **lunch preferences** for future meetings. October's meeting menu will be make-your-own-sandwiches.

Varvara reported that **merit increases** are on hold. Enrollment is down at LTU, as in most universities. The Board will be discussing merit increases at their next meeting. Everyone was reminded, on the plus side, that LTU has instituted no hiring freeze, has laid off no employees, pays excellent health benefit premiums, and continues to contribute to TIAA-Cref retirement accounts. These are all benefits that employees rely on.

Ford and Chrysler have both cancelled the underwriting of their employee-scholar programs, which was a significant loss for LTU, contributing to a lowered enrollment income.

The annual **Health/Benefits Fair** will be coming up on October 30.

Performance evaluations will be coming out and will be due at the end of October.

Marilyn Hotaling gave the first monthly report on **“What's New on Campus”**:

- Arts & Sciences has a new part-time hire, Marilyn Wiseman
- Career Services has a new director, Peg Pierce
 - A campus career day called “TechExpo,” sponsored in conjunction with Oakland University, will be held on September 30
 - “Career Quest” is available for job seekers – it is an interactive, online site (www.ltu.edu/career), listing over 1,000 registered employers with connections to full/part-time, volunteer, and internship jobs
- Engineering classrooms have been renovated with air conditioning, and are newly painted and carpeted
- Humanities
 - Long-time professor, Barry Knister retired
 - New Chair – Dr. Melinda Weinstein
 - New English professors, Rachel Azima and David Huntsperger
 - Newly-designed showcase near the lobby in the Arts & Sciences Building

Joyce Genat reported on changes in the Office of the Dean of Students/Student Activities:

- International Programs has moved to C405 (with Dean of Students)
- Student Activities has moved to C404 (with Career Services)

Joyce mentioned that **bulletin board flyers** must be stamped by the Dean of Students or Al McLaughlin of the Recreation Dept.

Linda Wareck reported on VITRC (Veraldi Center), which has been renamed **Instructional Technology**.

Jerri Ureel (Math/Computer Science/RoboFest) gave a brief rundown of the upcoming **RoboFest**, to be held on campus on Saturday, November 22, in the cafeteria area. The RoboFest World Event will be held on May 2, 2009.

A classical concert will be given by Chinese soprano, **Lily Zhang**, on October 3, at 7pm in A200. Tickets are \$15 and \$5 for students.

The meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Hotaling
Staff Senate Secretary