MINUTES
Staff Senate Meeting
May 18, 2004
1:00pm   Lear Auditorium

Departments represented: Admissions, Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Business Services, CoAD, Dean of Arts & Sciences, Dean of Engineering, Dean of Students, Finance & Administration, Help Desk, Human Resources, Library, Math & Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, President’s Office, Provost, Registrar, Student Affairs, University Advancement

Staff Senate Chair Dane Johnson began the meeting by introducing Jane Franko, who presented the Staff Member of the Month awards for March, April, May and June. Staff Member of the Month award for March was given to Michelle Juras of the College of Architecture and Design, April’s award went to Robin Allen of the Registrar’s Office, May’s to Stacie Thornton of Human Resources, and June’s award was given to Joyce Wolka of the Division of Student Affairs. Each recipient was given a floral bouquet, a certificate of recognition and a gift card to Border’s Bookstore.

CharMaine Hines of the LTU’s Division of Student Affairs gave a presentation on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator personality test. In her talk, CharMaine gave a short background of the company and described the areas of mental processing tested:

- **Energizing** – how we draw energy from the world, and internally from our own ideas, emotions and impressions
- **Perceiving** – how we take in information, whether through the five senses or through intuition
- **Deciding** – how we organize, whether by logic or personal/value-orientation
- **Living** – whether we live in a planned and organized way or that of a spontaneous and flexible one

The basis behind the test is being able to determine how you pattern your world, which affects various aspects of your life, including your career, interpersonal relationships, functioning in a group, and your ability to resolve conflict.

The test can be taken online for a minimal fee, but it is being considered by the Staff Senate as a possible half or day-long staff workshop for the next academic year.

Angela Ruth of University Advancement showed a mounted rendering of the proposed Student Services Building. The picture, which was signed by faculty, staff, administration and students, will be presented to Mr. A. Alfred Taubman, who donated $4 million for the construction of the new building.

The Minutes from the February Staff Senate meeting were read, seconded and approved.
Dane Johnson reported that on May 7th, 20-30 staff members participated in the “You Serving U” flower planting for the beautification of the Ten Mile Road entrance to the university.

The Community Outreach Committee’s next event will be a fundraiser in support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer August walk-a-thon. The fundraiser will be held on June 2nd from 3-6pm in the Atrium. Faculty, students and staff are encouraged to stop by during those hours and donate $1.00 or more for this cause. Refreshments and information will be provided. Committee Chair Nancy Catalina asked anyone willing to volunteer for the event to contact her.

Dane reported that the last social event of the year would be a lunch or dinner at a local restaurant. The Staff Senate will pay a portion of each person’s meal (up to 50 people) to say thank you for those who have supported Staff Senate events and attended the meetings. Details will be discussed at the next Staff Council meeting and forwarded to the staff via e-mail.

Dane thanked those leaving their Staff Senate posts this year: CharMaine Hines, Rochelle Bogan-Marion (and Aleta Mack as temporary replacement) and Joyce Wolka. He welcomed the newly elected members George Charbeneau, Kathy Gilman and Frank Marcum.

The meeting was turned over to Tracy Kash-Thomas who presided over the voting on the Bylaws changes. Copies of the proposed amendments to the bylaws were passed out and the voting was carried by hand vote. The question about the necessity of a quorum was raised. It was decided that since it didn’t appear possible to get more than 20% of the staff to attend Staff Senate meetings, the matter of a quorum was a moot point. Seven of the amendments, having to do with the word “representative” and changed wording on representation, passed. The eighth amendment, having to do with Staff Senate committees and their descriptions and duties, also passed. The question was asked whether the Recycling Committee would be included within the Facilities Committee. It was informally agreed that it would be.

Linda Wareck held the meeting raffle. Stacie Thornton was the recipient of the book, What Color is Your Parachute?

In the Open Forum part of the meeting, Dane reported that the outgoing and incoming new members would be meeting with the Staff Council this summer to tie up loose ends and get the new academic year off to a good start. The issue of the Staff Senate/Administration liaison replacement for Dr. Lee Johnson was raised. It was suggested that Linda Height, incoming Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance, would be the liaison person. Dane will investigate this.

Discussion followed on why more people don’t attend Staff Senate meetings, and what can be done about it. Some suggestions included: (1) issue a list of what Staff Senate hopes to accomplish for the upcoming year (2) meet in smaller groups, maybe for lunch, to discuss pertinent issues (3) have a brown bag lunch and require everyone to sit at tables with people from other departments (4) shorten the meeting time from 2 hours to 1½ hours. Karen Sanborn said she thinks part of the problem is that not enough staff people know what Staff
Senate is or does. She proposed that she devote a whole issue of the e-tech news to the Staff Senate and its activities. This idea was met with a resounding chorus of yesses. Some possible future events possibilities were suggested: (1) Dr. Jacqueline Stavros be asked to give a presentation of “appreciative inquiry,” the subject of her newly-published book (2) to attend a Tiger game and sit in the “Pepsi Bleacher Seats @ Comerica Park” section.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Hotaling
Secretary, Staff Senate