Staff Council Debrief – October 9, 2012

Chair Marilyn McKinney presided with Chair-elect Sue Koehler and Secretary Jan Holmes assisting. Pam Parshall took prayer requests and then led the group in prayer. There were two guests for this meeting from Mosaic, the fall 2012 service project: Serina Cole, Community Relations Manager and Debbie Fraysier, Executive Director of Mosaic. Mosaic is faith-based and serves the needs for people of all ages with intellectual disabilities.

Marilyn McKinney reminded everyone of the following:

- All faculty and staff are required to have new ID cards with a new photo made by the end of the fall 2012 semester.
- An easy link for contributions to United Way can be found on the Staff Council website.
- Nominations for Outstanding Staff Awards are due by October 30. A link to information and nomination forms may also be found on the Staff Council website.

The chair reported that member, Gary Stokes, accepted a position in the Provost’s Office making him ineligible to continue service on Staff Council due to a change in division. His replacement and new Staff Council member is Rochonda Farmer-Neal from Governmental Relations-Constituent Engagement. Additional changes include: Julie Stelley will serve as Parliamentarian and Julie Veselka will serve on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee with J. D. Windham serving as chair the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

General and Committee Reports Presented:

**Staff Council Agency Fund** - Julie Stahl reported that the University Accounting Office requested that Staff Council and other similar accounts close their small agency funds, primarily because of the cost of maintaining so many small agency funds. The decision was made to transfer the funds, totaling $63.51, to the Baylor University Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund.

**Baylor University Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Julie Stahl reported that as of September 30, 2012, the BU Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund had total gifts of $24,298.47, pledges of $2,022.07 for a total of $26,320.54. Please refer to the Staff Council website for an easy link for donations.

**Service Project Committee** – chair Steve Kieff gave a brief overview of the service projects. Details for the fall project will be forthcoming. The Family Abuse Center will be the focus of the spring 2013 service project.

**Spirit Shirts** – Rick Mattocks reported that the committee has made the garment selections and pictures will be posted on the Staff Council website soon. Once the information is posted, an email will go to all faculty and staff with information for
ordering shirts. There will also be a link to donate to the Baylor University Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund on the spirit shirt order form as it was last year. 

**STEPP Committee** – Diane Haun reported a good attendance for the October 8, 2012 STEPP luncheon with Dr. Blaine McCormick. He was engaging and fun as he addressed “How to Say No Without Ruining Relationships.” For the first time, card readers were used for tabulating attendance.

**Campus Diversity Committee** – Pam Parshall reported that this committee met on October 5. Guest, Dr. Karla Leeper, encouraged the committee to continue to look for opportunities to enrich the campus climate. Other topics discussed included the new faculty/staff reception on September 20th, the WOW sessions and the upcoming spring project Cultural Connection Celebration. Grants awarded this fall include: “Be the Change Mission Conference” a spotlight on the global perspective of Christianity; the “Missio Dei” (Mission of God) and “More Than We Can Bear” forum to raise awareness of African American Mental Health.

**Faculty Senate** – Sue Koehler reported discussion centered on the recommended policy for relieving a professor from his/her teaching duty. Another topic of discussion was the University Calendar Committee recommendation that the minimester begin before spring graduation and that the minimester and first summer session not overlap.

**PID/Baylor Committee** – (Sue Koehler) At the September 26 meeting Cindy Dietz reported that Felix Landry is working with the city and contractors about the Way-Finding project. Phase one of this project includes kiosks and mile markers from the Suspension Bridge to Herring Ave. The estimated completion of Phase I is 2014.

The intern from Baylor is working on contacting merchants and finding ways to help them reach out to students about their businesses. A website, Facebook page, and Twitter have been created.

The DASH is running every 15 minutes this year. Ridership is up and a large number of parents/family members are expected to make use of the service during Parent/Family Weekend.

**University Student Life Committee** – Eric Weeden reported that the Student Life Committee discussed 3 bills that they would like to see approved. The first proposal is to provide correspondence courses for a student who needs to drop out for approved reasons such as illness. The second proposal is regarding the participation grade policy, with emphasis on student athletes and the third
Proposal is for a change in requirements for HP courses within the College of Arts and Sciences.