Staff Council Debrief – March 5, 2013

Family Abuse Center – Spring Service Project

Kathy Reid, Executive Director and Virginia Feaster, Director of Development of the Family Abuse Center thanked everyone for what Baylor has already done and the many ways Baylor impacts the Family Abuse Center. The Center is a domestic violence shelter that serves a large geographical area with 80% of the clients coming from McLennan and the outlying counties. They have a 55 bed shelter and have been here since 1980. They do not turn anyone away. Some of the items needed at the Center include basics such as shampoo, towels, sheets, pillows and lots of diapers. The Center serves approximately 23,000 meals per year so food donations are also appreciated. The Center needs individuals to tell people who they are, what a wonderful resource it is and that everything is free. There are staff members available to speak to a class about domestic violence. Every person deserves respect, to have a voice, and to live in a peaceful home with no violence. More details about the Staff Council Spring Service Project will be provided at the April meeting.

STEPP Luncheon

The next luncheon will be April 17 with Alan Bowden, Sr. Dir. of Development Systems and Technology and Vincent Clark, Professor of History and Head Golf Coach at MCC. The title will be “Baylor’s History and Traditions.” Link for registration: https://www1.baylor.edu/pod_reg

Campus Diversity Committee

The committee reviewed 2 grant applications. A Diversity Enhancement Grant was awarded to the Global BU Vision 2013. The committee tabled discussion on one other grant until more information could be submitted. The committee discussed the New Faculty and Staff Reception for September 2013 and several great ideas will be pursued. The consensus was to be able to host an event that will draw more new employees to welcome them to the BU family. The annual Diversity Award call for submissions has been publicized. The committee will vote on this award at the April meeting.

Faculty Senate

Executive Vice President and Provost Elizabeth Davis spoke about the Faculty and Student Regent positions. It is a lengthy vetting system including an extensive questionnaire and meetings with several regents before the final selection. Karla
Leeper, Vice President for Executive Affairs and Chief of Staff to the President, spoke to the Senate to let them know she had met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to present the tobacco free campus proposal. Michelle Berry, Assistant Vice President for Academic Operations, gave a presentation and answered questions about the electronic faculty contracts that will be sent out in April. This is the first time contracts will be sent electronically.

Faculty Senate members expressed concern about electronic course evaluations that are being implemented. Some felt and others have heard that student response is not as high as the old paper method. Student evaluations factor in all faculty reviews (lectures as well as tenure-track) and the low response could affect the outcome of a professor’s review.