Staff Council Debrief – October 8, 2013

Comments from Richard Amos, Director of Compensation and Benefits
Richard Amos discussed the two health plans that will be offered to Baylor employees beginning January 2014. The newest one is the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). This plan is designed as an alternative to the existing PPO plan. The HDHP will have lower premiums with higher deductibles.

Baylor will be introducing a new plan for retirees 65 and older. It is called Extend Health. There will be access to over 40 different medical plans in the Waco area. The plans cost from $0 to $285 a month depending on the coverage desired. Current retirees begin enrollment in October for this plan.

Baylor’s existing PPO plan will not change. Premiums may increase approximately $2 - $20 per month depending on pay grade and number of dependents enrolled. Electronic communication with information on these new plans will be forthcoming and meetings that go into detail regarding these plans are scheduled. Open Enrollment is during the month of November, with the new plans begin January 1, 2014.

Staff Council Committee Reports

Endowed Scholarship Fund report
Julie Stahl: Scholarship Committee – This was the second year a scholarship has been awarded since we reached and exceeded the $25,000 endowed scholarship threshold.

Treasurer’s Report on Scholarship Funds – As of August 31, 2013 the fund balance in the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship had gifts totaling $29,490.10 plus outstanding pledges of $949.44 = $30,439.54. Every month, the Baylor family continues to provide generous support towards this scholarship fund and we are very grateful. A donation to the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship can be made at the time of purchasing a spirit shirt.

Spirit Shirts
The committee anticipates spirit shirts will be on display from October 28 to November 1. November 11th will be the last day to place an order. The committee is hopeful that they will have the shirts to distribute the week of December 2nd. Individuals making a purchase will have the option to make donation to the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship. It is important to note that Staff Council does not profit from the sale of spirit shirts, but coordinates the sale and delivery as a service to faculty and staff.

STEPP
This luncheon was thought to have the largest attendance in STEPP history. Approximately 400 attended and 270 lunches were ordered. Due to the large response, the event was moved to the 5th floor of Cashion. Holly Tucker did a wonderful job singing two songs and sharing her experiences while on The Voice. The next two events are:
- February 26 – Baylor Stadium Game Day 2014 with Brian Nicholson, AVP Facility Planning and Construction
- April 16 - 7 Values of Successful Communicators with Dr. Anne Grinols, Assistant Dean for Faculty Development and College Initiatives, Hankamer School of Business

Website
The Staff Council website has been updated to include the STEPP luncheon page, adding photos of the October 2 event. We are currently working on getting the Outlook calendar to download the STEPP event to the individual’s calendar following registration.
University Committee Reports

Campus Diversity Committee
On October 4 Campus Diversity Committee reviewed three grant applications. Diversity Enhancement Grants were awarded to Global Community Welcome Retreat, “A Veiled Existence: Women in Islam”, and “More Than We can Bear Forum”. The New Faculty/Staff Reception held in September was reviewed and preliminary plans made for next year. Planning continued for the Cultural Connection Celebration which will be held in January.

Faculty Senate
Judge Starr spoke to the senate about the BAA transition agreement vote and the future of the BAA. Richard Amos spoke about retirement benefits. John Whelan spoke about the tobacco-free, smoke free policy. The senate voted in support of that policy.

PID (Public Improvement District)
The committee met on September 25. Smith Getterman presented proposed Baylor/Downtown banners that will hang on lampposts from downtown, to Baylor around the new stadium. These banners will be hung during Football season and possibly at other times during the year. Baylor would coordinate with downtown merchants and replace Baylor banners with Waco/Downtown banners during Waco special events. Matt Penney reported that the DASH is still running and there is now an app that can track where the DASH is by going to www.baylor.edu/bus/gps. If using your phone there is an option to install: go to the App store and look for “ride systems” and then select Baylor when prompted.

University Calendar
Amy Williams reported that the University Calendar committee met on September 10th and 25th to look over future calendars and discuss any changes that could be made to better serve the faculty, staff and students. There was discussion on how to better utilize the day off for Fall Break, nothing was decided. The fall 2014 calendar was approved. Some concerns regarding Family Weekend date were expressed by Athletics.

Old Business

Stadium Events Committee
Staff Council currently has three members who have volunteered to sit on the Stadium Events Committee. Committee members include: Dominque Hill, Keane Tarbell,