Staff Council Debrief – December 10, 2013

Staff Council Committee Reports:

Endowed Scholarship Fund Report – Treasurer reported that as of November 30, 2013 the fund balance in the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship had gifts totaling $30,147 plus outstanding pledges of $552 = $30,699. We received a thank you letter from the student who was awarded $1,680 from the BU Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund this fall. She is a Freshmen Nutrition Sciences major from Waco. The thank you letter will be posted on the Staff Council website pending permission from the student.

Scholarship Committee – The committee received approval from the University to allow proceeds from the sale of spirit shirts to go towards the BU Staff Endowed Scholarship fund. Therefore, $2.00 to $3.00 from each shirt sold was transferred to the scholarship fund. Those who purchased shirts were also given the opportunity to include an additional donation with their order. The results from the sale are:
- 324 shirts sold
- 48 people designated $209.00 in donations to the scholarship.
- $892.00 is being transferred from the proceeds of selling the 324 shirts
- Total of $1,101 from shirt sales was deposited to the BU Staff Endowed Scholarship fund

Spirit Shirts - Shirts should arrive on campus Thursday, December 12th. The shirt committee along with other Staff Council volunteers will distribute shirts for two days. Time and location of distribution are TBA. Margaret Kramer will communicate that information to Staff Council once it is confirmed. Everyone picking up an order must sign for order. There were 324 items sold.

Constitution and By-Laws - Julie Veselka spoke on the proposed changes to Article II, Section 3. It was proposed that the wording “Nominations are due to the Committee before the last working day of February” be changed to reflect “Nominations are due to the Committee three weeks prior to the March meeting”. This change was voted on and unanimously approved.

University Committee Reports:

Diversity - Julie Stelley reported that the committee met on December 6th and reviewed three grant applications. Diversity Enhancement Grants were awarded to the Saakumu: Dance and Drums from Ghana and to the Speaker Series Talk: “A Veiled Existence: Women in Islam”. One application was returned for more information. Planning continued for the Cultural Connection Celebration which will be held Jan. 28th or Jan. 30th in the Stone Room in the Ferrell Center. All faculty, staff and their families will be invited.
Dominique Hill attended the Faculty Senate meeting on November 12th. The primary discussion was led by Provost Elizabeth Davis who spoke about faculty evaluations and the service component. This discussion, even after she left, took up the majority of the meeting. The faculty senate also voted to congratulate Judge Starr on his position/title change to “President and Chancellor”.

Old Business

**Baylor Alumni Association** - Lori Baker reported that the board met on December 7th and voted to allow members to vote electronically. The board is currently discussing several options for the future and will seek feedback from the membership when those options are better defined.

**Guest Speaker** - Dr. Truell Hyde, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs/Research spoke to Staff Council about the goals and history of the BRIC and gave a brief tour of the facility. Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative (BRIC) is the cornerstone of the Central Texas Technology and Research Park. The long term goal for Baylor regarding the BRIC is to become a preeminent research university while maintaining Baylor’s Christian mission. An array of regional development groups – The Cooper Foundation, Bellmead Development Corporation, Texas State Technical College Waco, McLennan County Economic Development Corporation, and Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce are partners in the project. L3 is currently moving 20 engineers to the BRIC. This facility has 330,000-square-foot and surrounding 20+ acres. Electrical and mechanical engineering researchers and those with the Center for Spatial Research and Center for Astrophysics Space Physics and Engineering Research (CASPER) are using the facility. LAUNCH, the innovative business accelerator, has moved to the second floor of the BRIC. LAUNCH is part of the suite of business-related services offered by Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business.