Staff Council Debrief - January 14, 2014

Judge Starr, President and Chancellor, welcomed Staff Council members and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He spoke of conversations with transfer students and their delight to be at Baylor. Judge Starr spoke of the two day conference in Rome entitled “Christianity and Freedom: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.” He stressed the need to develop a partnership with Georgetown University and their Religious Freedom Project. Judge Starr congratulated staff on the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship. He presented Staff Council Chair Sue Koehler a gift in appreciation for this scholarship.

Van Davis, Baylor OSO Fit Program, encouraged all staff to get active and make 2014 a healthier year. One incentive is to have 25% of each department sign up for the OSO Fit program. The department will receive a certificate to display. Staff can sign up at the front desk at the SLC to participate.

Staff Council Committee Reports

Treasurer’s Report on Scholarship: As of December 31, 2013 the fund balance in the Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship had gifts totaling $30,858.61 plus outstanding Pledges of $464.76 for a total of $31,323.37.

Spirit Shirts: A few orders need to be picked up. Some backordered shirts have arrived, but a few orders are still delayed. Expected arrival is January 15.

Service Project: The committee would like to choose Friends for Life as the Spring project. This project would coincide with one of the Spring STEPP luncheons and the project will host a “Sink the Socks” during the luncheon. This would be a basketball themed project, to go with the basketball season. Staff would be asked to bring all kinds of adult socks to the STEPP luncheon, shoot the socks into a basketball goal and sign up for a chance to win door prizes. A Friends for Life representative would be on site that day to answer questions anyone may have about their organization. If this project is successful, the committee would try to do more like this in the future....making giving fun and productive all at the same time!

University Committee Reports

Faculty Senate: Dominque Hill attended the Faculty Senate meeting on December 11, 2013. Reagan Ramsower gave a presentation regarding concerns about the increasing number of top-quality Texas high school students who are being recruited by schools such as Kansas and Oklahoma as well as TAMU and TCU. There is concern that Baylor is losing some of these top-tier students due to very aggressive recruiting by other schools using themes similar to Baylor. Chair Patton reported from the Staff Council Parking and Transportation Committee regarding the concerns raised by the Faculty Senate about scooters on campus. The committee is well aware of the issues raised and plans to address them. Plans include requiring all students with a scooter to license their scooter with Baylor and take online safety training to be allowed to drive on campus. Senator Lori Baker reported on developments with the Baylor Alumni Association, noting that they passed a resolution that would change the BAA by-laws to allow electronic voting.

New Business

Gospel Choir Sign-up: Dominque Hill invited all that are interested in joining to come to BOBO Spiritual Life Center at 6:30 p.m. on February 8th or 9th. The Gospel Choir will perform in Chapel from 8 am to 12 pm on February 10th.
Old Business

**Staff Council/Human Resources Survey:** John Whelan, AVP for Human Resources, spoke about results of the Staff Council/HR survey sent to 500 randomly selected staff members. 62% of those receiving the survey responded. He explained the three different types of services that staff are offered to assist with handling difficult situations in the workplace: HR Client Relationship Managers (CRMs), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and EthicsPoint. The survey revealed the staff’s need for more information on each of these benefits, and plans are in place to have brown bag luncheons to further explain details of what is offered. It was mentioned that students and faculty members have an ombudsman instead of CRM’s. A suggestion for a follow up survey similar to the current survey be made in one year. After John’s presentation, there was discussion on the need for a staff ombudsman. This discussion was tabled until the February meeting due to time constraints.