Guest Speakers

Smith Getterman, Assistant Director of Sustainability and Special Projects, spoke on “Sustainability at Baylor” to members. He reported that Baylor tracks its recycling efforts in terms of tons of materials recycled. Recycled materials come from the approximately 700 blue and green bins placed across campus; and recycling from demolition projects are not included in the figures reported. In 2009, Baylor recycled 395 tons of material and in 2013, Baylor recycled 448 tons of material. In fact, Baylor recycles more than many cities in our area. Mr. Getterman encouraged all of the Baylor Community, including Staff Council, to do our part by recycling and by turning off our lights as two ways in which we can help the environment. These two steps could help reduce local trash output and help take pressure off the local power grids. Mr. Getterman then answered questions from members.

Dr. Patti Orr, Vice President for Information Technology and Dean of University Libraries and Dr. Sandy Bennett, Assistant Director, On-line Teaching and Learning Services

Dr. Patti Orr gave Staff Council a presentation on Learning Management Systems (LMS) at Baylor. She reported that Baylor’s contract for the Blackboard system will expire in July 2015 and that it is a large, expensive contract for the University. Emerging technologies will also impact LMS at Baylor. In the interest of providing service to the Baylor campus and judicious stewardship of resources, her area is evaluating the Blackboard system, as well as another system called Canvas.

The Electronic Library has examined and explored many options over the last two years through the process of bringing in vendors, listening to our internal and external networks and talking with experts in the area.

As a part of the LMS evaluation OTLS has met with several constituent groups on campus. The groups include:

- Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee
- ITS/Library advisory board
- Library/IT student advisory board
- Academic Technology Directors

All faculty, staff and students received an email about the evaluation from Dean Orr on February 18, 2014. Additionally, large print ads were placed in the Lariat on February 21 and February 28. A digital Lariat ad was placed to run throughout the entire demos and roadshow period. Posters were placed in the Student Union Building and Central Libraries. Ads were featured on digital signs throughout the libraries. A full social media campaign was conducted.

OTLS created a faculty taskforce with a representative from each of the academic units to help gather information and to process the data and conclusions from the evaluations. After narrowing the selection of LMS options, OTLS sought additional data from the Baylor community by conducting a series of LMS demonstrations and roadshows.
University Committee Reports

Faculty Senate

Student Life now has a case manager to meet with student with psychological problems. There have been 150 new spaces for Line Camps this summer. Extra police have been hired to work Diadeloso and the administration is concerned about off campus activities.

Athletic Council announced that Baylor athletes have the highest GPA (3.72) ever at Baylor.

Registration Priority has recommended that the only groups that register before all other students are OALA students and athletes, all other students will register within their classification.

Academic Citizenship looked into the “service” aspect in determining faculty annual merit raises. They found that BUPP 706 addresses this issue and the committee recommends that the administration “revise the current merit evaluation form to be aligned with written policy on merit evaluations.”

The 2014-15 Officer Candidates were announced. They have proposed changes to their Constitution and Bylaws.

Staff Council Committee Reports:

Nursing School Service Projects
Service projects have been done at the Louise Herrington School of Nursing over the past several years. LHSON, encouraged by Staff Council service projects, does their own project since it is not practical for them to participate in the main campus project. The School of Nursing plans to support Operation Christmas Child as their upcoming summer and fall 2014 service project.

Scholarship Committee Report
Baylor Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund had total gifts of $32,343 plus outstanding pledges of $1,790 for a total of $34,133 as of March 31, 2014.

Ombudsperson committee
The committee researched all Staff Council actions reported in the minutes and spoke with former Ombudsperson committee members.

A motion was made to reaffirm previously adopted action regarding a Staff Ombudsperson. The motion: “After reviewing the history of Staff Council’s actions regarding the previously approved position of Staff Ombuds, and after examining the use of ombuds positions at peer institutions, the Staff Council of Baylor University reaffirms the actions taken by Staff Council in November 2005 and desires to move forward with requesting a staff ombuds”.

The motion passed.

Membership Committee

Staff Council members were elected from the following areas:

Information Technology/Libraries – Will Telfer, University Libraries
Nomination Committee

Adam Eckland was elected as Chair-Elect for 2014/15 and Lois Avey was elected as Secretary for 2014/15.

The Staff Council also gave a vote of confidence for Chair-Elect, Dominique Hill, by a show of hands to serve as Chair of Staff Council for the 2014/15 term.

Old Business

Constitution and By-Laws

Constitution and By Laws Committee changes were adopted as recommended by the committee. The motion passed.