MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
10:30 A.M. Zoom Video Conference

Members Present: Bailey, Ashleigh; Black, Kimberly; Brinser, Krista; Diaz-Espinoza, Crystal; Dutschmann, Deidra; Estepp, Michael; Ettinger, Lilly; Ferguson, Melanie; Fisher, Amanda; French, Gina; Griggs, Geoffrey; Haberman, Donna; Hand, Mike; Higginbotham, Brenda; Humphries, Mariah; Kruse, Ronda; Mathis, Jarrod; McCormick, Drew; McCulloch, Carol; McNamara, Lori; McSpadden, Erin; Price, Nicci; Ray, Denise; Rowell, Kelsey; Rylander, Amy; Scott, Laura; Shoemaker, Rick; Sumrall, Laura; Telep, Andrew; Wheelis, Meaghann; Wilson, Jasmine.

Welcome
Donna Haberman
The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. on January 12, 2021 by Donna Haberman.

Prayer Requests & Invocation
Jarrod Mathis
Jarrod Mathis led the group in prayer request and invocation.

Guest Speaker

- Student Success Initiatives
  Michelle Cohenour
  Michelle shared responses from entering students in the New2BU survey. Students who had a fully online schedule reported lower levels of belonging than students on campus. Services have been expanded for online only and low-income students. Students who need a laptop can complete an application for the laptop lending program, found here.
  - Fall-to-spring retention rates are slightly lower than they were last year. There is outreach to students who have not registered, and many students are experiencing financial barriers or holds on registration.
  - Faculty Senate partnered with Student Success Initiatives to offer meal cards to low-income students. Donations for meal cards can be made to The Store in $5 increments. Students who need meal cards can be referred to the Student Success Initiatives office for more information.

Department Spotlight

- Career Services
  Career Services office provides services to empower students to find success after graduation, including graduate school, volunteer service, and jobs.
  - Resources are available for students at each level, including freshmen. These include tools such as career exploration, help with internships, resume review, interviews, and job search strategies. The Career Services office offers information sessions, workshops, and Career Days with employers. Additionally, they teach a professional development class (PRD) in different majors to help students carve out time to dedicate to their career.
  - Staff Council can provide support by encouraging students at all levels to visit the Career Center and participate in the activities that are offered.

Old Business

- December Minutes
  A motion was made to approve the December minutes by Kelsey Rowell and was seconded by Erin Poteet.

Next Staff Council Meeting:
Tuesday, February 9th
New Business

- Upcoming Spring elections
- Nominations will open in the first week of February, and elections will be held late March.
- COVID testing
- Staff are required to test before returning to work and will test each week throughout the semester.
- Dependent verification deadline
- The deadline to submit documents is February 12, 2021.
- Website coordinator
- Anyone interested in serving as the website coordinator should contact Donna Haberman. The website will be updated to a new format soon.

Staff Council Committee Reports

- Constitution & Bylaws - No updates
  Nick Haynes
- Marketing & Communication
  OPEN
- Membership
  Meaghann Wheelis
- The committee is preparing for the upcoming nominations and elections process.
- Service
  Deidra Dutschmann and Amy Rylander
- Staff Council will partner with the Store for this semester’s service project. Staff Council members are encouraged to volunteer at least once each month throughout the semester. Members can also donate food items from their Amazon wish list and provide creative recipe ideas for students to use.
- Spirit Shirts – No updates
  Lilly Ettinger
- STEPP Luncheon
  Brenda Higginbotham
- The committee is planning for a virtual STEPP Luncheon this Spring. Anyone interested in assisting with the event should contact Brenda Higginbotham.
- Treasurer and Scholarship
  Amanda Fisher
- The committee is developing content to promote the scholarship on the website.

University Committee Reports

- Bookstore Advisory – No updates
  Lilly Ettinger
- Calendar – No updates
  Erin Poteet
- Campus Diversity – No updates
  Geoffrey Griggs
- Faculty Senate – No updates
  Nicci Price
- Health – No updates
  Laura Sumrall
- HR Advisory – No updates
  Jarrod Mathis
- Libraries/ITS – No updates
  Michael Hand
- Spiritual Life Advisory – No updates
  Denise Ray
- Student Life – No updates
  Kimberly Black
- University Grievance – No updates
  Melanie Ferguson

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to January birthdays!

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. by Donna Haberman.

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