
Absent Members: Von Breeden and Andrea Branch

**Chair’s Report**

The Chair had his monthly meeting with the Chancellor; it was mostly perfunctory with nothing ground breaking to report.

The executive committee met with Provost Kitts to go over the current budget concerns. Much of the results of that conversation were held to the end of the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Von Breeden, Treasurer, was not present to give a report.

**Committee Updates**

**Election Committee**

Some discussion proceeded about the composition of the current Election committee. It has been operating for some time with a chair; however, the constitution mandates that the chair be the secretary or the treasurer. The current chair of the election committee being neither presented a problem. After vetting no obvious conflict of interest with opening the position to anyone on Staff Council, a motion to amend the constitution to reflect the current practice was passed unanimously. This amendment simply eliminated a sentence from the constitution and did not require additional language to be drafted before going into effect.

**Employee Recognition Committee**

The Employee Recognition Committee has identified a number of non-council members who are willing to assist with ERC functions. New additions include (in no particular order):

- Rick Ransom
- Bridget Jones
- Christina Poteet
- Scott Bigelow
- Renee Steele

As per the prior meeting, these volunteers will be able to vote for the Star Employee program, but will not be able to vote on other council issues.
The ERC will also be taking over communication for the Star Employee program and will be working to highlight staff members in the Braves Bulletin. Evelyn Cheek will be one of the first staff members highlighted in the Braves Bulletin for winning seven medals in the Senior Olympics.

The chair of the ERC confirmed that he is currently trying to verify corporate sponsorship for this year’s bash per last year’s two year agreement. Funding is tight enough and the number of staff members served is great enough that corporate sponsorship might unfortunately be mandatory going forward in subsequent years, whereas last year it was providing supplemental funds.

**Constitution Committee**

Constitution Committee has finalized proposed language for amendments thirteen and fourteen. There was some debate as to whether the term “staff” versus “employee” ought to be used in amendment 14, citing the use of the word employee in the first article of the constitution. On closer inspection, Article 1 seeks to define employee as “SPA/EPA non-teaching staff.” It was therefore decided that the phrase “EPA non-teaching employees” would be circular and/or redundant. Both amendments passed unanimously.

The constitution committee asked for clarification on what kind of procedure the council wished to adopt for escalating issues to the Chancellor’s cabinet; the council having talked about such an amendment, due to prompting from the Chancellor at the previous meeting. Isolating what kinds of issue would be appropriate for the cabinet versus the HR department versus the university’s grievance process, deciding how to establish a threshold for severity, how the council decides collectively if an issue should be escalated, etc. proved complex. The chair indicated he would seek guidance from the Chancellor on what kinds and styles of issues he expects to receive and through what channels he wishes to receive them.

The constitution committee asked for clarification as to what procedure Staff Council wished to adopt for the selection of delegates for Staff Assembly. After debate it was decided by a unanimous vote that the constitution committee would draft language ensuring that the assembly delegation would consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and two delegates appointed by the Chair from Staff Council.

The constitution committee also advocated that they should embark upon a plan to streamline the constitution integrating all amendments and taking out content that would be more appropriate for bylaws and constructing a matching set of bylaws encompassing procedures from the current constitution and procedures currently not documented anywhere outside of the minutes. Staff Council voted unanimously for the constitution committee to proceed with this plan, with the understanding from Staff Council that this would be a long process.
Publications Committee

The publications committee had nothing to report, as they have not been charged with any new activity.

Budget Reduction

The chair lead a group discussion based on the notes and power point presentation from the Chancellor’s Budget Leaders Meeting, August 6th, which can be found at: http://www.uncp.edu/chancellor/budget/Budget_Leaders_Meeting_ppt.pdf

A brainstorming session was integrated into the presentation in which Staff Council presented budget reduction strategies. These included:

- Reducing the library’s evening hours, which not only would lower power consumption but would allow them to eliminate evening contract positions.
- Move from vinyl wallpaper based signage at department directories to cases with movable type thus reducing the need to reprint a whole directory whenever faculty/staff move within a department.
- Ensuring that HR training is led by internal staff instead of paying outside consultants; much discussion of this top ensued on the feasibility of this issue.