



CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

Staff Council began its 2008/2009 year with the annual retreat held in Rice Library room 0017. Sandi Davis provided the ice breaker. Guest speakers included Mark Rozewski updating us on all the changes on campus including the Business and Engineering Center, the University Center expansion, the round-about and many others. Cindy Brinker gave an overview of government relations. She said that state support for the University is down to about fifty percent vs. fifty six percent from the previous year. This puts a greater reliance on student fees.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chris Jines, Chair
Michelle Herrmann, Vice-Chair
Charlene Kaufman, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Benefits

There were three proposals for this year's budget:

1. A 3% across the board with a 1% merit rate adjustment
2. Resubmitted short-term disability
3. Tobacco-free campus

The committee also decided to look into the possibility of doing another Compression Study. The committee will break up the research for future proposals and include local businesses such as Mead Johnson, St. Mary's Hospital and Toyota in their statistics along with universities such as Indiana University, Ball State University, Indiana State University and Purdue University. They are also looking into the possibility of a police force to supplement public safety. They've also been working with Faculty Senate and a number of other projects including the possibility of joining a group that supports tuition fee waivers with other universities. Since Dave O'Grady's term has expired and he was the liaison to Faculty Senate a person will need to be appointed to attend Faculty Senate meetings.

Employee Relations

1. Archie's Food Drive was September 15-30. Posters were placed on campus and boxes were put in fifteen locations.
2. The Giving Tree – The application form was updated this year. It was suggested that next year they may want to remove the suggestions for restaurants, theatres, etc. Many questioned the need for these. Grocery cards were also given. Trees were put in eight locations and sixteen families were

helped this year. Six international students received large boxes of food, etc. because they are unable to go home over the holiday and some do not have transportation. Also, a non-USI family, separate from the Giving Tree, was helped because of a great need.

3. Student Worker Appreciation Week – This was held February 11-15. Emails were sent along with certificates to be printed out for each department's students. Each department was responsible for what they wanted to do for their students.
4. Employee Picnic – It was held in Carter Hall this year due to all of the construction on campus. The date was May 27. Hawaiian Luau was the theme. The menu included pulled pork, BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, fresh veggie tray, ice cream and fountain drinks. There were no prizes or white elephant auction this year but there were lots of fun decorations and a "lovely tropical spot" to take pictures. Fun facts about Staff Council were on the tables for people to look at. The cost was \$3,080.75. Mark Rozewski bought the leis out of Business Affairs for a cost of \$376.07 including shipping.

Nominating Committee

There were eleven vacancies to be filled this year. Those completing their second year term were Becky Ball, Brian Brown, Samoa Hempfling, Mary Killian, Terry Martin, Pam Moore, Dave O'Grady and Sheree Seib. Cynthia York and Charlene Kaufman were alternates but completed terms for two members who resigned so their spots needed to be filled. Also, Teresa Schmitt resigned so her position became vacant. Only three who were eligible to return wanted to be nominated. They were Cynthia York, Charlene Kaufman and Samoa Hempfling. Nominations were sent out the end of February. After the nominations were received, the people were called to send in their bios. Nominations/bios to be voted on were sent via campus mail to all support staff on May 4 with a return date of May 14. Those elected were: Debbie Whiteside, Cynthia York, Terri Alvey, Donna Dippel, Melissa Miller, Samoa Hempfling, Shannon Hoehn, Mary Ann Bernard, Charlene Kaufman, Kim Jost and Kathi Goen. Alternates were: Lorie VanHook, Debbie Banks and Julie D'Mellow.

Web Committee

Sheree Seib updated the Staff Council webpage during the year. Updates included new/returning council members, committee members' names, resigning/new council member photos, agendas/minutes, and general information updates and links to various applications found on the main page. The web committee will work ongoing with migration of old website to new site location, as well as addition of photos and graphics.

By-laws Committee

The committee met and suggested changes since it had been a few years since it was last updated. The changes recommended and approved were to make the by-laws easier to read and to remove wording that is no longer relevant. The committee met March 11 and made the recommendations March 31, 2009. Among the changes were the committee delegations. There are only two "Standing" Committees: Economic Benefits and Employee Relations and three "Subcommittees": By-laws, Nominating and the Web which meet on an as needed basis.

Ambassador Program

There were thirty one new support staff employee hires for this fiscal year. Each employee was welcomed via an email and offered a guided tour of the campus. Seven of the thirty one new hires accepted a tour. A welcome packet was given to all new hires. The Dental Hygiene Clinic supplies us with the bags and some

free items as well as our many brochures are included. The six Ambassadors for this year are: Julie Bordelon, Charlene Kaufman, Rene' Koressel, Chris Jines, Dave O'Grady and Angela Torres.

Other Events

Staff Council members continue to be active in other areas on campus. Members helped with the annual Wellness Fair and collected food throughout the year for Archibald Eagles' Food Closet. We had employees on a number of special committees:

Safety – Dave O'Grady
Traffic Appeals – Brian Brown
EEO – Becky Ball, Samoa Hempfling, Dave O'Grady
Substance Abuse – Rene' Koressel
Parking and Transportation – Chris Jines

The special interest group of the weekly Bible Study is still meeting on Wednesdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Chair's Report

I started off by introducing Staff Council at the fall Support Staff luncheon meeting and had the privilege of announcing the winner of the Support Staff Employee Recognition Award which went to Mary Spahn in the College of Business. I had the opportunity to meet the new members on the Foundation Board. I am also sitting on the Search Committee for the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Staff Council sponsored Faculty Senate in their proposal to increase the tuition fee waiver for spouses and children of employees. I am happy to say that it was granted for a 75% waiver. I also presented our budget proposal to the President and Vice Presidents in February.

The website has been updated and we are adding some new links, such as the smoking survey that Dave Enzler did with the student body. Also we want to add a link explaining all the committees that Staff Council has started since the beginning; why they were started, the year it was started, etc.

Rice Library has archived our old material and has a link on their website to access them. Each year the Staff Council Chair will need to take over pertinent material to archive, such as approved minutes, committee reports, list of members for that year, each committee and their members, any important issues that were discussed and put into effect.

Staff Council presented one memoriam resolution this year for deceased employee Mary Beth Downing. A certificate is no longer presented to the family but was read at a regular business meeting.

CONCLUSION

Staff Council continues to support the mission of the University and to foster collaboration with the support staff and throughout the University. I have enjoyed my year as Chair and I thank the Staff Council for their confidence in me and for all the hard work that each has put in this year. I continually hear positive things about this organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Jines, Chair