

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37240

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Francene Gilmer, President

Minutes

January 10, 1995

8:30 a.m.

Rand Hall Dining Room

Members and guests present: Francene Gilmer, Bill Corbin, Janie White, James Taylor, Jodi Smith, Pam Sevy, Mary Tom Bass, Amy Jarvis, Cindy Miller, Anita Jenious, Ruby Fisher, Karen Cunningham, Brent Tener, Brenda McKee, Kathy McTiernan, Donna Smith, Anne Marie Talbott, Susan Davis, Janet Thomason, Jo Bilyeu, Robert Halliburton, Susan Pudlo, Nan Bilotto, Jaclynn Dunkle, Sue King, Lewis Saettel, Susan Slay, Derrick Gragg, Katie Sue Ford, Marlene Hall, Sandra Winters, Michele Douglas, Lera Douglas, Virginia Featherston, Lyle Lankford, Richard Smogur, Kurt Brobeck, Jeannie Rice, Jennifer Sadler.

Regrets: Leslie Boone, Karen Dolan, David Greenlee.

Minutes: The January meeting of the Vanderbilt University Advisory Staff Council was called to order by President Gilmer at 8:35 a.m. in the Rand Hall Dining Room. Gilmer welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 1995 and read an inspirational passage from Apples of Gold. The minutes of the December 13, 1994, meeting were approved with the addition of several representatives to the list of attendees.

Gilmer announced that Vi Prosser has changed positions at the university and is no longer able to serve as Staff Council Secretary. Gilmer asked for volunteers from the group but received none. She will contact individuals by phone to fill the vacancy. (Karen Dolan has since agreed to serve as Council secretary through the end of June.)

Mary Elster, Coordinator of Health Promotion, presented information to the group on several programs being sponsored by HealthPlus. Individuals interested in registering for sessions should contact the Health Plus/Wellness Center office at 3-8943.

Lewis Saettel, Group 24 representative, reported on an informal staff tuition/course benefits study that he conducted among area colleges and universities. His study seemed to indicate that Vanderbilt has the least generous policy of all the schools surveyed. The Council passed a motion asking President Gilmer to send a memo to the members of the university's benefits committee requesting that the issue be studied by the committee.

Kurt Brobeck, a staff representative on the university Benefit's Committee, responded to several questions from Council members concerning the role of the committee. Brobeck informed the

Council that the committee normally reacts to proposals made by the university administration rather than taking a pro-active role in shaping policy. Some members expressed concern that the role of the

Benefits Committee has diminished in recent years. He stated that the committee is

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cUItently receiving information on proposals relating to a prescription medicine program, managed care, and long term care. Several questions were asked about the offering of the Health 1-2-3 program to Vanderbilt employees. Gilmer reminded the Council that Jane Bruce, Director of Benefit Programs, is scheduled to speak at our February meeting on the details of the Health 1-2-3 program.

Gilmer asked for endorsement from the Council to send two memos to the university administration. These memos were recommended by the Executive Committee:

The first memo expresses concern over possible inequities in the implementation of university policy relative to the Friday after Thanksgiving. It is the perception that schools and/or colleges are interpreting the policy in a variety of ways causing a hardship for some employees. The Council passed a motion approving the memo.

The second memo expressed concern over a possible failure to follow university policy in the appointment of staff members to the Benefits Committee. Although the policy states that nominees are to come from the Staff Council, new members were appointed this fall without any such consultation. The Council passed a motion approving the second memo.

Vice President Bill Corbin reported on the January 5, 1995, Executive Committee Meeting. Issues discussed at that meeting were:

- 1) The December Council meeting and comment by Chancellor Wyatt
- 2) A draft list of recommendations from Traffic Consultant, David Moore of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon. The recommendations are an attempt to improve pedestrian safety on 21st Avenue South near the campus.
- 3) An informal staff tuition/course benefit survey conducted by Lewis Saettel.
- 4) Requests for Council approval of memos concerning the Friday after Thanksgiving and appointments to the Benefit Committee.
- 5) Need for the appointment by President Gilmer of Election and Nominating Committees.

Future Executive Committee meetings will be held at 11:30 in the General Library Conference Room on February 9, March 9, April 6, May 4, and June 8. All Council members are invited to attend.

President Gilmer asked for volunteers to serve on the Council Nominating Committee. Marlene Hall volunteered. Gilmer asked for additional volunteers for the Election Committee. Although none came from the floor, Jeannie Rice, Virginia Featherston, Brenda McKee, Bill Corbin and Gilmer had already agreed to serve on that committee.

Richard Smogur requested a clarification of the purpose of the memo on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Several Council members reported concern that some employees were being forced to take annual leave, a floating holiday, or leave without pay when the day should actually be considered a university holiday.

Smogur requested feedback from the Council on the Holiday Gala that was held December 22 at the Stadium Club. Several representatives shared their opinions on the date, entertainment, refreshments, and favors.

President Gilmer adjourned the meeting. The next Staff Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 8:30 a.m., in the Rand Hall Dining Room.

