

UNIVERSITY STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 2009 - Meeting Minutes

Date: August 11, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: The Commons, Room 237

Attendees:

Stan Amos, Terri Armstrong, Becky Atack, Bill Bailey, Lora Barnett, Harriette Boglin, John Brassil, Angela Chapman, Mary Ann Dean, Michele Dixon, Daniel Dubois, Lorraine Durso, Kristy Fisher, Jamie Formont, Jodie Gambill, Nancy Holcroft, Andrea Houseman, Faye Johnson, Stacy Kendrick, Sue King, Anna Kathleen Krueger, Melanie Lang, Barry McCurry, Brenda McKee, Kenny Moore, JoAnn Patterson, Ronnie Pepper, Don Pickert, Don Pruitt, Jessica Pryor, Deborah Reynolds-Barnes, Andy Richter, Karen Seezen, Brenda Sheldon, Donna Smith, Carol Soren, Dan Steward, JJ Street, Kate Stuart, Carlos Trenary, Phillip Tucker, Nyla Villager, Rochelle Waddell, Andrea Wall, Myrna Watson-Wienzetzl, Luci Whatley, Cathy Whitlow, Cliff Wilson, Michelle Wyatt

Regrets:

Jean Alley, Chris Bransford, Alison Bush, Vickie Cage, Mary Clark-Webb, Greg Collins, Mindy Craven, Chris Cribbs, Sheri DiGiovanna, Felicia Dotson, Shawn Fagan, Joe Fisher, Keith Franklin, Sterling Frierson, Eric Heath, Shirley Hiltz, Stacy Hockett, Nancy Jackson, Stacy Johnson, Kristin Koval, Vickie Latham, Ashley Martin, Cheryl McClure, Jason McGrath, Laura McLeod, Lydia Norfleet, Stacy Nunnally, Anne Marie Owens, Dylan Reed, Katherine Rhodes, Hillary Showman, Mike Smeltzer, Susanne Smith, Olivia Soxayachanh, Ray Stanard, Cindy Steine, Todd Suttles, Molly Thompson, Bryon Walker, Katie Watts, Lolita White, Tara Williams,

Special Guests:

Jane Bruce, Sharone Hall, Cliff Joyner, Melissa Wocher

I. Call to Order

President Diane Banks called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the June 9, 2009 USAC Meeting

A motion to approve was called, seconded and unanimously approved.

III. Committee Reports

Communication:

Chair, Carlos Trennary – We have not had our first meeting yet but we are in the process of updating our mailing lists. We will have more to report at the next USAC meeting

Events:

Chair, Andrea Wall – I am really pleased that we have more people who want to be one this committee. We are planning on having a blood drive soon and will be in contact with the Red Cross. Once we have a date set, we will let everyone know. One other thing, the Annual Tailgate party will be Saturday, September 5th from 3 to 5 p.m. with kickoff at 6 p.m. and we will need volunteers to work. This is for employees and their families. The tailgate will be located at the Rob Roy Purdy Field at the Student Recreation Center entrance on 25th Avenue South. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Midori Lockett at midori.lockett@vanderbilt.edu or visit <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=celebrateus&doc=24906>

Membership:

Co-Chair, Andy Richter – I am the co-chair along with Kristy Fisher. We had our first meeting this morning. We have assigned roles to other committee members. I know some of you are undecided as to a committee you would like to serve on. He handed out a sign-up sheets for those who have not signed up yet. If you would like to change your preference, please let me know. Today is your opportunity to sign up. We are here to serve you. If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate Kristy or myself.

Rules and Administration:

Chair, Bill Bailey – Thank you for coming out. The committee will be getting together in the next week to discuss any possible changes. He also handed out Parliamentary Procedure document. This explains how we like to function here. Please feel free to take one. As we discuss things as a group, we really need to be mindful of how we approach subjects and how we express ourselves.

Staff Life:

Chair, Kathy Rhodes was ill. Vice President/President Elect Daniel Dubois reported that several ideas have been forwarding to the committee and Kathy will be getting in touch with those on the committee. He further stated Kathy has been known to get what she wants. If you have not signed up for the staff life committee, it is a great committee to work with.

University Standing Committees:

Benefits: Andy Richter that the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) was rolled out July 1st. They are still working on offering Identify Theft Protection and will report at a later time.

Traffic and Parking: No report

Medical Center Staff Advisory Council: Diane Banks reported that the USAC has been invited to join the MCSAC Safety Committee. Bill Bailey has agreed to represent the USAC. This Safety committee is based on personal safety. More details will follow at a later time.

The chair of the Faculty Senate contacted Diane Banks if we had similar issues. She has referred this to the staff life committee and will let them discuss this and bring a proposal back. They are also very interested in enforcing the existing smoking policy on campus.

New Business

Diane Banks stated the Chancellor's Reception will be August 27th at 5:30 at the chancellor's residence. Our lists seem to be not up-to-date and there have been some of the USAC members that did not personally receive the invitation. Please let me know if you did not receive an invitation. She will follow-up with the membership committee to make sure the correct email for the individual USAC members are correct.

Kristy Fisher reminded all USAC members to attend the Business Diversity Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Student Life Center. Don't forget to bring your business cards to enter into the drawings held by the vendors in attendance.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Douglas Christiansen – Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions

Dr. Christiansen expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak to us and he emphasized the importance of staff in making the positive impression necessary to recruit new students. National survey data supports the significance of the role of staff in welcoming students and their parents to campus. Vanderbilt has had a striking increase in applications and especially in acceptances. This is especially encouraging as we used to compete for students with the second tier of schools, now we compete in the top level, trying to get students to choose Vanderbilt over the very most prestigious schools. A greater percentage of students get aid as we fulfill our promise that no one who is accepted will be turned away for inability to pay, but in most cases partial funding completes the financial aid package. A formula is used to determine the family's resources. At several points, he mentioned doing right for students and their families, not just what is best for Vanderbilt.

Increasingly, Vanderbilt builds relationships with students in junior high school, letting them know that a Vanderbilt education is not out of reach. The recruitment message also focuses on these themes:

- Vanderbilt is a diverse place

- Vanderbilt is affordable

- Vanderbilt is firmly and uniquely committed to innovative undergraduate teaching and learning

- Balance is the hallmark of Vanderbilt life

- Nashville is a place you simply have to see

The Council thanked Dr. Christiansen for giving us the first of our glimpses at Vanderbilt's mission and image in the larger community.

VI. Closing Statement / Dismissal

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Diane Banks.