

March 2023 Classified Staff Council Meeting

Date: March 15, 2023

Location: Room 1303

Present Members: Brent Dotson, Jennifer Williams, Kim Hitt, Elizabeth Knick, Pat Harris, Tom Lemon, Lindsay Morgan, Cody Irick

Absent Members: Al Collins, Vanessa Chilcote

Guests: President Tori Jackson, Martha Lesson, April Crone, Cindy Dotson.

Call to Order

- Brent Dotson called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

February 2023 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

President Tori Jackson

- **The WV Campus Defense Act:**
 - o The Governor has not signed the bill, but there is every indication he will.
 - o After the bill is signed, concealed carry on campus will begin on July 1, 2024.
 - o Parts of the bill are “to be determined”. After the bill is signed into law, a committee will determine what provisions are allowed.
 - Buildings with flammable goods such as Science buildings may be off-limits.
 - Individuals with their own offices may be able to put up signs which do not allow firearms in their office.
 - Open office areas are not allowed to do this. These concern areas such as the Business Office front counter and Financial Aid.
 - o **Will the campus increase security?**
 - President Jackson discussed Al Collins carrying his weapon and having all security guards qualified to carry on campus.
 - o There will be a Town Hall discussion set up when more is known.
 - o The bill was pushed back to 2024 due to the cost to higher education institutions for requirements such as lock boxes.
 - When the bill was first introduced 5 years ago, there was a 19 million estimated price tag state-wide.
 - This new version of the same bill does not name a cost, however, when considering inflation, one would have to assume the cost will be even greater.

- o Most Staff Council members expressed unease over the new bill, however, President Jackson has polled students and most are unphased by it.
- o More information will be released as it is known.

Monthly Reports:

- BOG – Cody Irick
- ACCE – Lindsey Morgan

• Board of Governors – Cody Irick

- o The last BOG meeting was very brief. The group met solely for the purpose of approving the Academic Search Company.
 - Applications for the Presidential position are open until April 15, 2023.

• Advisory Council of Classified Employees – Lindsay Morgan

- o **Senate Bill 268** passed on March 4, 2023, with a vote of 69 in support
 - Beginning July 2023, PEIA insurance will return to an 80/20 split, which could increase some premiums by as much as 25%.
 - The bill also institutes a spouse “buy-in” requirement for members whose spouses have available insurance with their employer.
 - The spouse buy-in was of particular concern to this member, Jennifer Williams, whose spouse has substandard employer coverage and is diabetic.
 - The required buy-in would potentially push premiums for individuals up by 30%, adding an additional \$1764.00 to insurance premiums per year.
 - For those who do not make a living wage, to begin with, this is an added cost many cannot afford, but have zero choices since the alternative is coverage that could kill their spouse.
 - To offset the rising cost of PEIA Insurance, the state is giving employees a \$2,300 raise for AY 23-24.
 - The state government has also discussed tax cuts, which they contend will cushion some of the blow.
- o The ACCE Market Study is dead in the water. Lindsay has had very little cooperation or luck with members in getting it reenergized.
 - The assumption of the Staff Council is they have no intention of continuing the study so current pay rates cannot be scrutinized.
- o ACCA conducted its first Staff Council Chair Zoom meeting in March. It was enlightening for our current sitting Chair, Brent Dotson.
 - There was discussion about many of the state’s colleges going to all non-classified staff, which strips many state protections for workers.
 - Brent noted that many Staff Councils are very small or inactive, with one person doing multiple positions due to possible fear of repercussions or people just not wanting to get involved.
 - The Staff Council discussed how lucky we feel to have active, energetic members and President Jackson’s support.

Treasury Report

- **Brent Dotson for Vanessa Chilcote** – No changes to the Treasury report.

- Vanessa Chilcote

New Business

- **Staff Assembly**

- Staff Assembly will take place on April 19, 2023, at 2.00 pm in the WVUP Auditorium to vote for Staff Council Chair, ACCA Representative, and setting members for the next term.

Old Business

- **Classified Staff Scholarship Form**

- Brent discovered a Classified Staff form was not available on the website, so the Children Classified Staff Form was altered and brought to the meeting for approval.
 - Form was approved with minor changes.
 - Motion to approve
 - First: Pat Harris
 - Second: Jennifer Williams

- **Purse Bingo**

- Purse Bingo will take place on April 22, 2023, from 3 pm to 6 pm. Doors will open at 1:30 pm and ticket prices are as follows for 20 sheets of 9 blocks:
 - Early Bird: \$25.00
 - At the Door: \$30.00
- Martha Leeson has been recruited by the committee to assist in acquiring donations.
- A statement letter is being drafted to give to companies for donations.
- The next Purse Bingo meeting will be on March 16, 2023.
- Proceeds will go to the Drema Starkey Fund and reimbursement to the WVUP Activities Fund.

The Employee of the Month

- Belinda Reed was named EOM for April 2023 and will receive a certificate and a \$25 Walmart gift card.

Call to Dismiss

- Brent Dotson called a motion for dismissal.
- Staff Assembly will be held on April 19, 2023, at 2 pm.