

University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2008
Meet Time: 8:30a.m.–10 a.m.
Meeting Location: **Rand function Room, Sarratt Student Center**

Attendees: Jean Alley, Becky Atack, Brad Awalt, Diane Banks, Lora Barnett, Mary Clissold, Michael Crowe, Karen Daniel, Sue Davis, Sheri DiGiovanna, Marcia Dillard, Michele Dixon, Daniel Dubois, Jeffery Duly, Kate Gilbreath, Robin Guest, Shirley Hiltz, Nancy Holocroft, Jason Hunt, Brandy Kahlig, Sue King, Kristin Koval, Mary Shelley Meadows, Ginny McLean-Swartzell, Brenda McKee, Jackie McMath, Kelli McQuiston, Ronnie Pepper, Kathy Rhodes, Robert Rich, Andy Richter, Sandra Robinson, Karen Seezen, Mike Smeltzer, Lynn Smith, Brian Smokler, Dennis Spann, Roger Stearns, Courtney Taylor, Molly Thompson, Carlos Trenary, Kay Tyler, Lolita White, Susan Widmer, Cliff Wilson, Melissa Woche, Jeff Youngblood

Regrets: John Brassil, Allison Bush, Ken Carter, Beth Clark, Kevin Colon, Mary Ann Dean, Richard Dennison, Shawn Fagan, Traci Ferrell, , Sandie Frantz, Sterling Frierson, Carol Guth, Sharone Hall, Antoinette Hicks, Kathy Hutchison, Faye Johnson, Rosalind Johnson, Michael Jones, Ginger Leger, Julie Martin, Joyce Matthews, Kay Matthys, Cheryl McClure, Camilla Meek, Robert Martin, Craig Nance, John Nesbitt, JoAnn Patterson, Don Pickert, Kit Potter, Don Pruitt, Carol Soren, Dan Steward, Carlos Trenary, Mary Clark Webb, Jim Webb, Amy Williams

Visitors: Lauren Brisky, Jane Bruce, Cliff Joyner, Diana Wohlfahrt, Lt. Irizarry, Lt. Newman, Stacey Kendrick, Marlon Lynch

President Cliff Wilson called meeting to order

Cliff apologizes for the mishap with the food, the caterers are currently setting up and the food and beverage will be ready shortly.

Approval of the April Minutes, call to approve, second, approved

Introduction and welcome to guests: Lauren Brisky, Jane Bruce, Chief Marlon Lynch and Cliff Joyner

Committee Reports:

Events - No Report

Rules and Administration - No Report

Staff Life - Shelly Meadows reported the Staff Life committee is proposing the idea of 5 paid bereavement days instead of the current 3 offered. A formal recommendation was made to the council. This recommendation was based on the growing need for more days to travel, make preparations and grieve for a lost loved one. The recommendation was approved with

one minor typo on the document. The council conducted a verbal vote for this recommendation to push through for council consideration and proposal.

Audience participation validated the need for the increase, testimonials about challenges surrounding a death in the family were shared and the hardship of only 3 paid days was expressed.

Q. Has the policy been looked at regarding the relationship of the family member, i.e. coverage the death of an extended family member?

A. Yes

Audience comment: It is cruel to limit the coverage to only immediate family, when in a changing world and family structure you might have been raised by your uncle, or cousin to whom the bereavement days do not cover.

Communications - Ginny McLean-Swartzell announced the web site changes are done! We are excited about the changes that help improve navigation and sorting of the list of representatives. A special 'Thank You' to Glenna Underhill for making the changes. Ginny announced she will not be in her current position next year and urges anyone interested to join the communications committee for the next academic year.

Membership - Andy Richter reported elections are here and begin on Friday, winners will be asked to join a standing committee.

Q. Are we voting on even numbers this year?

A. Both actually, we are doing even groups and odd groups that need filling. The odd number group winners will start right away

Benefits Committee (not a USAC committee) - Andy Richter announced that the university is looking into companies that offer identity theft protection, to be added as part of your benefits package.

News for participating in the Vanderbilt Retirement Plan: if a faculty or staff member submits their Vanderbilt Retirement Application and Investment Allocation Form without an application to the retirement company they have chosen, that company (AIG Retirement, TIAA-CREF, Fidelity or Vanguard) will have a 'default' fund into which the money can be invested (employees will no longer be required to submit the company's application, unless they want to choose the funds themselves). (Note: If a faculty or staff member fails to submit Vanderbilt's form upon their mandatory eligibility date, the default fund will still be Fidelity.)

*Break for refreshments

New Business - Cliff Wilson announced that he just sent out information regarding the Family night with the Symphony. Share this info with your constituents.

Election Nominations:

Secretary - Andy Richter nominates Lora Barnett, all in favor say I, no opposed, approved. Lora Barnett will serve as the 2008/2009 USAC Secretary, congratulations to Lora!

VP/President elect - Andy Richter nominates Diane Banks, and Carlos Trenay. A silent vote is cast and tallied at the end of the meeting. Results are that Diane Banks will serve as the incoming VP and presidents elect for next year. Congratulations to Diane!

Feature: “START!” Brad Awalt, Asst. Manager, HEALTHPlus and Stacey Kendrick, coordinator Health Promotion, HEALTHPlus

Brad Awalt reports; START is a new physical activity program, we have partnered with the American Heart Association and the Heart Institute here at Vanderbilt. You can sign up today after the meeting, laptops are just outside for your use. The main focus of the program has been to count steps, over 2,000 people have already enrolled and we hope to achieve 1 billion steps with everyone's help. There are prizes for counting steps and tracking your activity through quarterly contests and a grand prize to be announced. The pedometer is a great way to track your steps and it is a constant motivator as well. And for additional motivation there are bi-weekly e-mails with updates of upcoming events. If you do not have internet access there is a manual form.

Lauren Brisky states that Vanderbilt is looking into a way to post markers around campus to indicate distance walked from place to place on campus so everyone can more accurately count their steps/walk.

Stacey Kendrick reports that Health Plus won 2 awards. The American Heart Association awarded us with the Platinum level Fit Friendly Company Award. We also won the Fitness Innovation award for some of our programs like START, Go for the Gold and our new fitness center. Stacey handed out flyers about National Employee Health and Fitness Day May 21st; a one day program to promote Health and fitness with healthy snacks, door prizes, Yoga on the balcony, super class and at no charge a chance to visit Dayani and other remote classes around campus. Stacey also reiterates that even 10 minutes at a time is a great way to start being active.

Feature: “Vanderbilt Police Department’s Philosophy and Services” Marlon Lynch, Chief of Vanderbilt Police Department

Chief Marlon Lynch states that Vanderbilt Police Department handles everything that is owned or controlled by Vanderbilt. We are a full service Police department serving a University of students' average age 18-24. This is where most of our activity comes from, the students. But including the Medical center we stay with a full time need of services. Our services include full control of the University and Medical Center, community programs and educational programs that focus on personal safety and identity theft. We have a precinct philosophy so that you can be familiar with the officers that work in your area. A more recent but growing part of our office is the Victim Assistance Office. This office has been a great asset for us. Also new and useful is the Alert VU system to alert you via phone or e-mail about impending weather dangers.

Chief Lynch notes that Campus violence is something we must now deal with, we cannot so much prevent it but we can prepare and respond appropriately. We now share information with the Dean of students so that awareness of concerns can be dealt with before an incident occurs. If you have heard about the proposal of allowing firearms on campus, please know that this is not a good idea. How will we know who is the aggressor if everyone is armed? It is not a situation we can deal with effectively so we are adamantly discouraging it.

We also have a new K-9 unit in place and over the year have used the unit over 100 times. The K-9 unit is for explosive detection, and has been a great tool and asset to the Police department. We will be using the K-9 unit for the upcoming presidential debate and motorcades in Nashville. Chief Lynch notes, do not walk up and pet the dogs. Be cautious and ask the officer before approaching the dog.

Another initiative this year had been pedestrian crosswalks with traffic safety units, motorcycles and cars. We will be stopping people for failure to yield to pedestrians. This comes after an increase in incidents/accidents involving pedestrians. Also enforced on campus is Click it or Ticket, this goes for officers as well so let me know if you see an officer that is not buckled up!

Overall crime is down on campus due to a more security conscious VUPD presence and education. We go by the three P's Partnership, Pride and Professionalism. Our new philosophy is that of response and being proactive including more contact with officers, if you see an officer walking around do not suspect something is wrong, we are going to be out and about at all times.

Q. What do we have here to prevent something like what happened in San Diego where 75 students were arrested for drug use and trafficking?

A. Drugs are on campus, but not like that. We deal mostly with marijuana some ecstasy and traces of cocaine.

Q. Are there more alcohol related problems here?

A. Yes, Vanderbilt officers are in more places to handle this issue, besides stolen property alcohol related issues are the most common.

Q. Do Bicyclists have rules on the sidewalks?

A. Yes, we do share the sidewalks with the cyclists; unfortunately not everyone riding a bike has bike training. With the gas prices soaring we will likely see an influx in bike riders on campus and on our sidewalks.

*We are adding more signage to reflect Yield to Pedestrians

Q. How many officers do you currently have, how many dogs?

A. Over 100 officers, 4 K-9 unit dogs

Q. Will there be any changes due to the commons opening next school year?

A. Yes, our community is constantly changing and we have to constantly change our approach, we will be ready for the commons area influx.

Q. Is there currently a no gun rule on campus?

A. Yes, it is a federal law

Q. The new police cars, hemis?

A. No, the new chargers are the V6 not the V8 Hemi. They help with fuel cost and they are smaller for better mobility.

Chief Lynch closes by saying: If there are any additional questions or concerns please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Cliff Wilson thanks the guests and speakers and alerts the group that next month's meeting may be held at the commons, look for information regarding that possibility.

President Cliff Wilson dismisses the meeting.