

THE FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 12, 2005

Present: Tom Baraniak, Peggy Pfister, Julia Burmesch, Margit Johnson, Kathy Tezla, Mike Hendel, Sue Traxler, Jon Bartlow, Doug Foxgrover, Jane Austin, Toby Uecker, Rod Oto

Following is a summary of the items discussed at the meeting:

1. College Council Update – Rod Oto reported that there has been a reorganization of the timing of the budget process which results in an earlier budget cycle. The Trustees will now approve the budget in January or February instead of March. The Budget Committee met with several areas last spring to talk about their needs and priorities. As a result, there are seven issues that the Budget Committee feel need attention including financial aid, competitive salaries, adequate benefits, long-term plans for capital budgeting, maintaining the quality of the library collections, reducing the student-faculty ratio and assessing the size of both the student body and faculty, and developing a clear strategy for bonding and debt service.
2. Update of fall term events:
 - Happy Hour at the Cave. This event, co-hosted with SAC, was a great success. Approximately 50 staff attended from all areas of the college. We should plan to do this again next year, or possibly even once per term. One suggestion is that we start a little earlier, possibly 4:30 p.m. This might allow staff who need to get home to families or other activities a chance to attend.
 - Brown Bag Discussion. This lunch discussion, co-hosted with SAC, is planned for Tuesday, November 1st from Noon – 1:00 p.m. in Sayles-Hill 251. Karyn Jeffrey and Bonnie-Jean Mork will be on hand to answer the questions previously submitted by SAC and The Forum.
 - Welcome to New Staff. This event, co-hosted with SAC, is planned for Monday, November 7th in the Alumni Guest House Library from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Peggy will request a list from Elise Eslinger of new staff to be introduced at the Quarterly Meeting that day and we will split up the names and make calls to personally invite new staff.
 - All Staff Retreat. Mike Hendel and Doug Foxgrover reported on the plans for the all staff retreat scheduled for November 30th. Invitations should be mailed out next week.
 - Goodsell Office Crawl. Doug Foxgrover will host this event on Tuesday, December 13th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. beginning in the lobby of Goodsell.
 - Gallery Talk – Mike Hendel will call Laurel Bradley about organizing this event.
 - Random lunches – Tom Baraniak will schedule.

3. Task Force on Committees – Kathy Tezla and Margit Johnson reported that the task force sent a memo to Fred Rogers on September 21st recapping the progress made so far and requesting additional information. Once they receive this information (which is expected this week), the task force will schedule its next meeting.
3. Winter Mini-Retreat – This event will be Thursday, March 16 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Options for the location are the LDC dining hall, the tea room, Great Hall, Evans dining hall or some combination of these. We'll continue this discussion at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 3:00 P.M., HILL LOUNGE