

# Minutes from the April 16, 2009 General Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Melody Ferguson, Jennifer Burley, Michele Brittany, Donna Plummer, and Bob Hardie.

## 1. Welcome to all in attendance!\* (Melody Ferguson)

- Melody welcomed all staff members whom were present at the meeting.

## 2. Introduction of new staff members @ UWT (Michele Brittany)

- Michele indicated that there were three new staff members at UWT since our last meeting:
  - Joshua Knudson, Vice Chancellor for Advancement
  - Kimberle Shaw, Gardener 2, Facilities Department
  - Lynora Hirata, Lead Behavior Intervention Coach, Education Department

## 3. Reports from Board Members:

- Update from the Treasurer (Donna Plummer)
  - Donna noted that we have \$73.62 in our bank accounts.
- Update from the Mentoring Chair (Michele Brittany)
  - Michele stated that she has received much positive feedback from current mentors and mentees. Volunteer mentors are always welcome. Please contact her if you are interested or have any questions.
- Update from the Elections Committee Chair (Bob Hardie)
  - Bob indicated that we received 33 nominations for 23 staff members for the UWT Distinguished Service Award. This is a fantastic number and we are thrilled for such high participation. Chancellor Spakes will send out an email soon letting the campus know who the winners are.

## 4. Announce this quarter's 'Unsung Hero Recipient' (Jennifer Burley)

- Jennifer declared this quarter's recipient of the Unsung Staff Hero award is Tyler Wilson from Communication Services. Tyler was noted for being "one of those under-the-radar guys who does amazing work amazingly fast, never complains and is making UW Tacoma look so good through brochures, posters, Terrain, ads, and so much more." We thank Tyler for all that he does for so many on campus. Congratulations Tyler!

## 5. Human Resources (Renee Smith-Nyberg)

- Renee discussed resources and what's being planned with the upcoming budget cuts. Workshops and career coaching sessions will be posted on the website. POD is providing us with pre-packaged free training support. HR is hoping to bring a training session for staff transition. There will also be a new website with online tools and resources coming soon. There is a new Career Resource Center that opened in the basement of Mary Gates Hall at UW Seattle. HR is checking to see how long Carelink would be made available to layoff-affected employees. E-learning is available through 12/31/09. HR will also be available for any resume and coaching support. For those that will still be here, Renee said that there will be assessments, OD support, and a possible campus brainstorming session to generate ideas and support for campus transition programs & resources.
- Renee also relayed some “myth-busting”. HR is doing the best that they can under many time constraints. They are also looking for us to help with this process. Feel free to let them know of any creative suggestions that you may have. Renee also stressed that it is very important to have manager/employee conversations to discuss any concerns, questions, or suggestions that you may have.

#### 6. Budget Update (Kim Davenport)

- Kim indicated that the Budget Committee has not been involved in the budget reduction process, but this may change in the future. The Budget Committee will be meeting today along with the Strategic Planning Committee. Kim encouraged everyone to look at the draft preliminary budget reduction plan that Chancellor Spakes emailed about today and said that Pat welcomes feedback from individuals & groups.
- Kim also noted that her term as the staff representative to the Budget Committee may be ending this academic year, so keep on the lookout for a call for new staff representation. Kim also suggested that there should be two staff members on the Budget Committee – especially one coming from an academic unit, and one coming from a non-academic unit. (note: these suggestions have been brought by the board to Chancellor Spakes whom indicated that she will take them under advisement).

#### 7. Earth Week Events (Bridget Mason)

- Bridget announced a number of activities happening on campus for Earth Week.
- Bridget also indicated that if staff members are willing to volunteer to help with activities, to please let her know. She encouraged staff to come to the “No-Waste Picnic” happening on Friday, April 24th from 12:30-1:30 pm in the Commerce Plaza. She also stated that if any staff member is having an event on campus and would like to use less waste, to please let her know as she could give pointers on what to use.

#### 8. Student Involvement BBQ – May 27th 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (Melody Ferguson)

- Melody stated that the Staff Association is helping out with the Student Involvement Block Party BBQ happening on Wednesday, May 27th in order to raise funds. She indicated that the board is in need of staff volunteers and requested that if anyone can help, to please let the board know. If anyone can help with cooking food, he/she must have a Food Worker card.

Additional Items:

- Jill Carnell Danseco reminded everyone of the upcoming James Carville event on April 20th. Tickets for students are still available from the Student Involvement office.
- Megan Bentley announced that there is a union meeting happening on April 17th from 12-1 pm in WCG 106. Next Staff Association Meeting will be on July 16th from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Tacoma Room.

\*Attendees: Michal Nolte, Fiona Johnson, Bridget Mason, Renee Smith Nyberg, Heather Hucks, Kate Reinking, Beth Luce, Noell Bernard, Marcie Pearson, Kim Davenport, Tyrell Stewart, Carolyn Maxson, Natalia Artimonia, Jo Enscoe, Beckie Etheridge, Brian Anderson, Tyler Wilson, Megan Bentley, Erica Coker, Julia Smith, Alison Navarette, Gabriela Crosby, Naarah McDonald.