

Operating Staff Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Members in Attendance: Slava Bruder, Jennifer Dube, Holly Hillsgrove, Janice Pierson, Toni Searles, Lisa Wilder, Jason Brodeur (Chair)

Members Not in Attendance: Matty Leighton (Recorder), Patrice MacNevin, Doreen Palmer (UNHM)

Guests: Nicole Finitsis, Lonn Sattler, SPPC

Agenda Items

Welcome/Minutes Approval – Jason Brodeur, Chair

All in attendance approved the minutes by acclamation for February 21, 2007 meeting.

New Council Membership – Jason Brodeur, Chair

Jason announced that Jeff Jones is leaving the university and will be missed. Jeff has extended his gratitude and appreciation for working with the council this past year. We will now be looking for a new council member to assume leadership of the vacant district. Nicole Finitsis from the New England Center was unanimously voted in as a new council member to oversee the district that Lori Parent formerly held. Nicole will also assist Patrice with communication to those in Dining and Hospitality that do not have ready computer access.

Community Service & Learning Projects – Nicole Finitsis

Nicole reminded the council of the upcoming Relay for Life scheduled for April 28-29. Teams are still forming for this event. UNH will be holding a Community Leadership Awards Celebration this spring. They are looking for nominations for anyone who is affiliated with UNH. Nominations must be submitted by March 22, 2007 to Deb Sugerman, TSAS Community Leadership Program, 291 Mast Road. Red's Shoe Barn will be holding a five mile (not K) road race Sunday, April 22, 2007 to raise money for seven non-profit organizations in the area: Big Brother and Big Sister, Dover Adult Learning Center, Avis Goodwin, Community Partners, HUB of Dover, Monarch School and Molly Farm.

For more information: www.redsshoebarn.com/race/Race_Form.htm.

This year, the Waysmeet Center and the Cornucopia Food Pantry are once again assembling food baskets for friends in our community. All offices, groups, organizations are invited to put together a basket or "recipe for change" (your recipe and all ingredients to make it). For more information on any of these events you can contact Nicole at: nmlb@cisunix.unh.edu.

Staff Grant Committee Update – Jennifer Dube

Jen reported that there has been a significant increase in the total number of applications for grants and that only a small percentage came from Operating Staff. There is some concern that managers may not be encouraging their OS to look into these opportunities. Janice suggested that if we gave OS more examples of how they could use these grants, more individuals might apply.

Council By-Laws Revision Discussion – Jason Brodeur, Chair

The OSC By-Laws have been in their current form since May, 2000. When making revisions, Jason suggested that we need to keep in mind the following:

- Keep it simple, yet comprehensive
- Keep it relevant to current needs and activities of the council, while remembering that it will serve the needs of others that come after us
- Keep it functional/practical

Jason then read sections of the current By-Laws aloud and council members provided their feedback. In Article II (DEFINITION OF OPERATING STAFF), Jason recommended that the wording “clerical/secretarial” be changed to “administrative”. In Article III (STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL), Section 1, it was noted that there are currently 14 districts, rather than 16. As such, the council made the decision to change the number of voting members to 17, with 14 members representing individual districts and three members-at-large to be determined. There was also some discussion as to whether non-status employees should be represented by the OSC. This conversation will no doubt continue, though the consensus at meeting time was that the council, by definition, represents Operating Staff. In Article III, Section 3, Jason recommended removing paragraph three, since the Chair does represent a district and should not be considered a member-at-large. More discussion followed regarding Article IV (LENGTH OF TERM), about the current wording with respect to the length of term of service for council members. The council concluded the revision process at this point, but will continue during subsequent meetings this spring.

SPPC Policy Revision Discussion – Lonn Sattler

Lonn is still looking into whether two university employees can use the fitness benefit of membership to a gym when only one in the couple carries insurance coverage. Slava noted that Harvard Pilgrim’s drug prescription plan has raised certain medications to higher tier levels, thus increasing the co-pay. This is problematic to many who expected to continue to pay the same on refills of long-standing prescriptions formerly under Cigna coverage. Lonn will follow up on this. Lonn also brought to the council’s attention the current policy wording for military leave and how much earned time can be carried over. He also hopes to be able to report back to the council soon with an answer regarding health insurance coverage for dependents that live out of state.

Transportation Policy Committee Update – Jason Brodeur, Chair

Jason provided a few relevant updates from the minutes of the last two TPC meetings. In December, there was discussion about campus snow/ice removal and curtailed operations. The UNH police chief offered his participation in the decision-making since he is able to readily communicate with state police about road conditions. It was also noted that there will be zero tolerance for those who continue to park in handicap spots. The Main Street project, a joint effort with the Town of Durham, has increased its scope and construction is slated to begin next spring after commencement. Another item of interest was the announcement that Enterprise has a pilot program underway to use energy efficient hybrid vehicles. From the February meeting, FY07 and FY 08 Transportation budgets and a comprehensive survey were central topics of discussion. Vice President Cannon also gave a brief history of the RCM review, concluding that the funding formulas were not yielding what was intended by the models. Departments have been asked how they would adjust to a 10% reduction in the University Fund Allocation and the elimination of funding over the next 3-5 years.

Wrap-Up/Adjourn – Jason Brodeur, Chair

The meeting was adjourned by 2:40 pm. There were several handouts from both Jason and Nicole. The next OSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th.

OS Council web site: <http://www.unh.edu/os-council/>

PAT Council web site: <http://www.unh.edu/pat-council/>