

**Staff Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November, 13, 2008**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Skutt Student Center, Room 104**

Members Present: Theresa Thurin, Jami Monico, Taunya Plater, Mariah Starling, Celeste Hubbard, Colleen Warin, Jan Schnack, Theresa Conway, JoAnn Wilde, Annette Thomas, Lisa Chipps, Luann Miller, Toni Parsley

Absent: Deb Russell, Karen Farias, Beth Krause, Tom Thibodeau

**Reflection** – Given by Theresa Thurin for Deb Russell

**Approval of October Minutes** – Moved to approve by Taunya Plater, seconded by Luann Miller

**REPORTS**

**Presidential Committees – Financial Advisory Committee – David DenBeste** – David came to provide a report on the Financial Advisory Committee from October 14<sup>th</sup>. Two of the functions of the representatives of this committee is to provide input on budget expenditures and suggestions leading to additional sources of income as well as increases in regular sources of income. If anyone has any suggestions to this regard, they can address them to David or to Theresa Thurin and he will present them to the committee. No ideas is a bad idea. We should all have a voice. "Creighton has the heart to make it work!"

**Treasurer's Report** – No report

**Issues** – No issues to discuss.

**Nominating** – No report

**Staff Relations** – The Town Hall Meeting scheduled for December has been postponed to the Spring. Motion was made to postpone by Theresa Thurin and seconded by Lisa Chipps. Some ideas for topics were discussed such as a wrap up on the transition of the retirement plan, state of the University in light of the economy. Theresa Conway suggested having the same forum on campus as well as near the hospital. The week after Spring Break was one of the suggestions for a possible date for the Town Hall meeting. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Lisa will talk to the Athletic Department to find out if they can provide us with free basketball tickets.

**Staff Service** – We did not discuss a specific holiday spirit project.

**Standing Rules** – The last set of Standing Rules were updated in 2004. Theresa and Jami have reviewed them and made necessary changes. The council members reviewed the draft and some changes were made. Jami will forward a copy to all members for review when completed. They will then be submitted to the University Committee on Statutes.

**Martin Luther King Day Committee** – No report

**Kiewit Fitness Center Advisory Committee** – No report

**Chairperson** – No report

**New Business** - SAC has been tasked with compiling a list of suggestions on cost cutting measures. We were asked to provide a representative for the Crisis Committee and Jan Schnack was voted as the new representative for this committee. Theresa will e-mail Tanya Winegard with our selection.

A constituent posed the question to one of the representatives on how can staff be a part of the belt tightening process. This was addressed by Father in his presentation to us.

A suggestion was made to possibly donate a gift for the Service Award Luncheon.

**Old Business** –

SAC Spring Retreat - No spring retreat will be planned at this time

Suggestions for communication with constituents - Tabled until next meeting

Specific Child Development Center donation - Possibly do something for the Holiday Bazaar

**Guest Speakers:**

Fr. John Schlegel was the guest speaker at this month's meeting. He came to give a presentation on the state of Creighton in these tough economic times. One of the most important issues is student attraction and retention. Creighton has taken the initiative to go into a proactive mode instead of a defensive one. We need to protect our resources.

Some of the ways in which Creighton will be doing this is:

- 1.) Putting a temporary or permanent halt on construction projects and non critical needs.
- 2.) Freeze all open positions and freeing up some positions through attrition.
- 3.) Asking each VP area to set aside, on paper only, ways of cutting 10% of budgets. It was very gratifying to know that everyone is coming together to work this out.

It is not the intent to eliminate any staff and we need to remember that we are all in this together.

Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures.

There will be an electronic suggestion website implemented to give everyone an opportunity to present ideas on cost cutting measures. More on this to follow.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 3:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 104 of the Skutt Student Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Parsley

Secretary