

Staff Advisory Committee
May 2, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Joyce Arnold-Hesson, Eric Carlile, Emily Disbrow, Joni Gilmore, Birgit Hoffman, Peggy Nettenstrom, Lisa Norsworthy, Samantha Peterson, Amanda Ramsey, Lisa Rice, Noel Stojkov, Catherine Warren, Denette Way, Deborah Yu

Members Absent: Melanie Mabry, Amy McCoy, Gary Stafford

Others Present: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Aleta Cannon

Summary:

Approved Agenda

Approved March 21, 2024 minutes

Updated Committee on Staff Day

Discussed Staff Advisory Committee Email

Nomination for Administrative Council

Discussed Board of Trustees Breakfast

Comments by the President

Proceedings:

Chair Eric Carlile called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Joni Gilmore motioned to approve the agenda for May 2, 2024. Birgit Hoffman seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Peggy Nettenstrom motioned to approve the March 21, 2024 minutes. Lisa Rice seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Carlile updated the committee on the plans for Staff Day 2024. The planning committee had a meeting on April 11, 2024 and the next planning meeting has a tentative date of May 23, 2024 at 1:30 pm and will be in the lobby at Stonecipher Hall. Carlile invited everyone to attend to see what the space will look like. The t-shirt design has been finalized but Aleta Cannon is checking to see how the file can be recreated for Cookeville Promo.

Hoffman secured Dr. Ashley Howell, Director of the Tennessee State Museum, and Lee Curtis, a legislative communication liaison with the State of Tennessee. Catherine Warren confirmed ITS will be a speaker. HR will be the fourth speaker instead of a final Q&A session. Each speaker will have an opportunity to have a Q&A session at the end of their session.

Carlile will advertise in the Tech Times so vendors can apply to setup. The Food Pantry has agreed to come, and we will use the Tech Times advertisement to encourage donations. Food offerings at the retreat will be like last years.

Carlile suggested the need for two members from the committee to volunteer to assist with the Staff Advisory Committee email. It was agreed upon that Aleta Cannon will help monitor the email as a consistent backup person. Deborah Yu volunteered to assist with monitoring the email. Noel Stojkov also volunteered to assist with monitoring. It was again noted that the email confidentiality would need to be taken into consideration.

Carlile explained that there are four members from Staff Advisory Committee appointed to the Administrative Council. Of the four members, Jennifer Dewar's term is expiring this year. Dewar could be renewed, or the committee would need to take nominations for a new appointment to the Administrative Council. Cannon explained that Dewar's term for Staff Advisory Committee was also expiring this year. Dewar stated she was willing to be renewed and would prefer to serve again.

Cannon let the committee know that the Board of Trustees breakfast is on June 20, 2024 at 7:00 am before the June Board of Trustees meeting. The breakfast is in the Roaden University Center outside the Multipurpose Room. The committee will be receiving invitations in the mail the next few weeks. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend.

President Oldham updated the committee on numbers for commencement the following day, stating between 1,400-1,500 students will be graduating. It's always an exciting day and there may be some rain. One of our Board of Trustees members and an alum of Tennessee Tech, Barry Wilmore, will be commanding the inaugural flight of the Boeing Starliner into space. It will launch at about 9:30 pm on Monday night, May 6, 2024. It will be on NASA's YouTube channel to stream. Oldham wished him well for a successful flight.

Next Friday, May 10, 2024, we will have an uplink with Wilmore on the space station at 2:45 pm for 25 minutes. We will have a setup in the Multipurpose Room. Our men's golf team won the OVC Championship for the first time in 34 years. They will be representing the OVC and Tennessee Tech at the NCAA Regionals in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Oldham explained that enrollment is looking positive. We have a record number of applications, admits, transfer applications, graduate school applications, and housing applications. It is likely to be another 2,000 or more-freshman class and decent overall enrollment. Oldham stated everything works better when enrollment is up and thanked everyone for all they do to help us recruit and retain students. Everyone on campus has leaned into making it personal and helping students be successful.

President Oldham stated that we are on track to start a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering this fall. We are waiting on final approval from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission which should take place on May 16, 2024. From the state budget this year, we will have a three percent salary pool and some of this will be used for the market adjustments laid out in the Compensation Plan. The details are still being worked out.

Oldham stated it is not a great year for capital projects, but that we already have plenty taking place on campus. We are getting a \$2,500,000 fund to renovate Wattenbarger Auditorium. Other capital projects on campus are progressing well. The Peachtree Road Project is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of June. The Ashraf Islam Engineering building is progressing. The columns are in at the front of the building, the lake is in, and the sculpture is in place. The lake is filling up with water now. The scheduled completion date is June 9, 2024, but President Oldham was unsure if it would be finished by that date exactly. It should come close.

Derryberry Hall Auditorium renovation is in process. Some of the work was pushed back to begin after Boys State this summer. It is projected to take eight months to complete. The ACME Building and JJ Oakley Residence Hall are in design phases. Johnson Hall is coming out of the design phase.

The Foster Hall demolition is progressing, and internal abatement is being done now. It will be taken down in a few weeks. Bidding will take place for the demolition of the west side of Tucker Stadium soon. The design and rebuilding will continue. Oldham noted that both the City of Cookeville and Putnam County have made substantial financial contributions to this project which have probably not happened before. It is evidence of the great relationships in the community and how we work together.

President Oldham explained he has been informed that we will see a Taco Bell on campus next year to replace Tu Taco in the Roaden University Center. He is working on another food option, In N Out, but it may be difficult.

Birgit Hoffman asked if there were any projections of students having to live off campus? President Oldham answered that we look to be in good shape. There have been management strategies put into place that have helped immensely. We now have a staff member that helps place students in off-campus housing and works as a liaison to help identify properties for students. We have also done a better job of tracking first-time freshmen and continuing students living on campus. There is no anticipated need for temporary housing in hotels.

There were no Other Such Matters.

Carlile motioned to adjourn. Dewar seconded. Adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Documents on file:

Agenda, May 2, 2024
Minutes, March 21, 2024

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