

STAFF COUNCIL
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Meeting Held January 10, 2006
(Approved)

Present: Judy Cereghino, David Cook, Dianne Dula, Sali Gill-Johnson, Gail Hampton, Susan Hisle, BR Hoffman, Eddie Hyle, Len Johnson, Lou Ellen Jones, Loretta Link, Denise Marsh, Jackie McInturff, Alyson Moore, Carolene Pierce, Chris Popoola, Carol Query, Stacy Sears, Janice Voss, Jenny Ware, Fran Wilson

Excused: Betsy Anderson, Deborah Brown, Peggy Eller, Julie Huffman, Sharon Kincaid, Michelle Merski, Lottie Oliver, Tina Parlier, Charlie Wallin

Guest(s): Dana Braswell, Lori Carson, Charles Cobb, Rob Gibbard, Andrea Mitchell

The meeting was called to order by Jenny Ware.

1. Approval of the November 8 Minutes. It was moved (McInturff), seconded (Pierce), and unanimously accepted that the minutes be approved with two changes as noted.
2. Approval of the January Treasurer's Report. It was moved (Jones), seconded (Wilson), and unanimously accepted that the Treasurer's Report be approved.

Account Name	Amount
Operating Account	\$ 5,376.95
Receipt Supported	\$ 2,455.30
Christmas Fund	\$ 1,304.15
Associated Scholarship Fund	\$ 707.65
Endowed Scholarship Fund - Contributions	\$ 19,681.12
Endowed Scholarship Fund - Net Assets	\$ 23,582.96

3. New Business

A. Athletics and Staff Involvement

Jenny welcomed Charlie Cobb, Director of Athletics, and congratulated him on the exciting semester here at Appalachian. Mr. Cobb indicated it has been an amazing six months. He indicated that a lot of the credit goes to Ritchie Williams and indicated that students are great here at Appalachian.

Mr. Cobb addressed a miscommunication last semester from his office. Faculty and staff were disappointed by the decision regarding the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Football game. Mr. Cobb wants to know how Athletics can involve staff and asked for feedback. Athletics is trying to figure out the dynamics of low attendance. There are approximately 2,500 faculty and staff members, about

20,000 Boone residents, and 10% of the market in the community works on campus. Emails continually announce athletic events occurring on campus.

Discounted tickets are offered to faculty and staff, and free tickets have been given to groups. For the first home game (Coastal Carolina), there were 3,400 requests for free tickets. Athletics tried to be aggressive selling tickets and limited free tickets to all groups, including staff and faculty. He indicated that in 2004, only 176 employees took advantage of the game ticket offer. It is understood that employees do not receive a lot of perks. Athletics is merely trying to generate revenue as Appalachian does not have the benefit of TV sponsorship or advertising.

How do we create Appalachian fans? It was suggested that Athletics consider giving one free ticket to faculty and staff. Mr. Cobb did note, however, that 85 percent of the playoff game proceeds go to the conference. Positive statements were made for baseball for children, signs announcing athletic events on campus roadways, emails announcing events, notices to school-age children through public schools, and Football 101. Suggestions included the following:

- events to introduce players
- a sports expo
- less late evening games
- invite different groups, such as staff, single parent night, etc.
- hold a session to meet the athletes
- offer a short sports learning session
- reduce time between double header events which reduces attendance
- reduce ticket prices for children 3 and younger
- have kid zones

Jenny requested that staff representation be included on any committee organized and thanked Mr. Cobb for attending and addressing employee involvement.

B. Katrina Relief: Alternative Spring Break Trips for March 11-18

Len Johnson announced that 4-6 groups will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi with the Baptist Men's Association from March 11-18 to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. An information brochure was distributed. Assignments may include debris removal, rebuilding 500 homes, etc. Shelter and food are provided. Housing with this group has been in barracks or churches. Groups will be comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Cost is \$50 per person for faculty and staff to support transportation costs, however, organizers are anticipating aid from the local Red Cross to underwrite transportation costs. A tetanus shot is required.

Staff are eligible for emergency disaster relief leave, a paid leave. To qualify, a mandatory Red Cross training will be held prior to the trip in order to meet leave stipulations. Signup will be later this month. A \$10 deposit can be submitted to HRS with the remainder due at the end of February. Reservations are on a first-come/first serve basis until openings are filled. There will be approximately 20 faculty/staff openings, but this number may be reduced depending on student response. Supervisors must approve the employee's absence.

Trained volunteers will lead the groups. There will be dissemination sessions to discuss events and reactions.

There is great need for many months to come. This is a strong beginning through the ACT office.

- C. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Len Johnson distributed a flyer with EITC information for persons over 25 but less than 60. The EITC is for people who work and do not make much money. You must meet certain requirements to be eligible. Click on the HRS Web site link to see if you qualify.
- D. Silent Auction is the primary fund raiser for scholarships to staff and dependents. Sali Gill-Johnson distributed a list of businesses contacted last year, but solicitations are not restricted to this list. The Silent Auction will be held in conjunction with Staff Appreciation. The Silent Auction will not include “gently used items.” Sali will coordinate the database of businesses contacted and items received. Members are asked to keep items until the auction setup. Members will be asked to assist in collection, setup, and breakdown of the auction. Sali will distribute letters to distribute to businesses.

4. Old Business

- A. Give-A-Child-A-Coat – 267 coats were collected and delivered to A Cleaner World on behalf of Staff Council.
- B. Chancellor’s Advisory Committee – postponed discussion until the next meeting.
- C. Resolution: Expand the in-state tuition waiver to allow at least three courses per employee per academic year working in the UNC-System. It was moved (Hyle) and seconded (Hoffman) that the resolution be approved. Motion carried with one abstention (Link).
- D. Resolution: Extend the tuition waiver program to dependents and spouses of employees working within the UNC-System. It was moved (Moore) and seconded (Marsh) that the resolution be approved. Discussion included extending the tuition waiver to significant others and legal dependents. It was decided that the original motion go forth at this time. Following approval, action can be taken to include significant others and legal dependents. Motion carried with two abstentions (Gill-Johnson and Link).
- E. On-line survey to determine interest in tuition waiver between Appalachian and the community college system. Len Johnson encouraged employees to respond to determine interest across the state.

5. Miscellaneous

- A. Question was asked whether out-of-state tuition waivers has been discussed for North Carolina employees who live in Tennessee, South Carolina, or Virginia and attend North Carolina institutions of higher learning. Jenny, in her capacity as residency officers, is not aware of any discussion but will broach the subject at the next state meeting.
- B. Staff Council Cookbooks – only six cases remain of the original order. Cookbooks can be purchased at the Bookstore at a price of \$5.00 each. Fran

Wilson continues to promote the cookbooks by displaying them at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center.

- C. Scholarship Committee. Applications for the Chuck and Robin deKrafft Staff Scholarship have been received and will be reviewed by committee members next week.
- D. Give-A-Child-A-Christmas. Dianne Dula reported that children taken shopping received \$130 each. The event went very smoothly with minimal problems. Receipts were submitted to clear the advance issued.

Dianne encourages anyone to visit the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center on the day of shopping to witness the excitement of shoppers and children. Children received backpacks stuffed with handmade scarves and hats, beanie babies, school supplies, and items for hygiene.

Comment was made that some children identified by the schools also benefited from the Angel Tree. Perhaps school counselors can take this into consideration when identifying children to participate in this event.

Council members discussed this event conflicting with the Chancellor's Open House. The Christmas Committee will take this into consideration in the coming year.

Dianne expressed appreciation to her co-chair Deborah Brown, to Janice Voss who received names of shoppers and drivers, and to all of the shoppers, drivers, and others who assisted to make this a success.

- E. Staff Update Newsletter. Jackie McInturff announced that *Updates* should be received within the next few days.
- 6. Membership Changes. Doris Greer will serve as an ex-officio member representing Human Resource Services as needed. Lynn Rogers resigned as a representative from the JET Building.
 - 7. It was moved (McInturff), seconded (Jones), and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned.