

**Staff Advisory Committee
Teams Meeting
May 6, 2021**

Members Present: Angie Denson, Shana Eads, Kathy Faulkner, Amy Foster, Carrie Harris, Susan Henry, Michelle Holm, Corinne Johnson, Bethany Jones, Andrea Kruszka, Charlene McClain, Kim Meredith, Robert Scantland, Michael Sliger, Angie Wells

Members Absent: Margo Dirkson

Others Present: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Sherrie Howard, Donna Schrock

Summary:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Discussion on Opportunities for Staff

Nominate names for Administrative Council

Comments by the President

Proceedings:

Chairperson Angie Wells called the Teams meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Andrea Kruszka motioned to approve the agenda. Kim Meredith seconded. APPROVED.

Bethany Jones motioned to approve the minutes from March 25, 2021. Andrea Kruszka seconded. APPROVED.

Angie Wells would like to have a full day staff retreat sometime in the summer, possibly the middle of July. Angie is looking into a location to hold the retreat, possibly the Science Building. She has talked with a couple of professors that may be willing to present on time management, etc. Susan Henry added that we have 278 clerical and staff. In the MPR we could hold 200 at 50% occupancy or possibly split it up into two sections. For the summer we don't have a room that large. There was concern if they waited until Fall would all staff and clerical be able to get away with students on campus? A Friday may be the best. Later in the year may have less COVID restrictions. Angie would like this to be a fun interactive day that we can come together and learn something and also be a team building experience.

Charlene McClain asked if members on the Staff Advisory Committee would be hostesses? Wells would like to form a planning committee to work out the details. She would like to use campus resources; faculty members and professors. Those interested in being on the committee please reach out to Angie or Andrea Kruszka. Angie Wells talked with Ayla Whittaker in HR who has put a survey together to see what staff want to be trained on. Ayla will send it the week of May 17th. Watch for it!

Angie Wells asked for names of clerical or staff to be given to President Oldham as a possible member to Administrative Council. Donna Schrock added that it could be anyone across campus. It did not have to be someone on the Staff Advisory Committee. The member would attend Administrative Council meetings, which meet twice each semester. They would be a voting member and would vote to approve policies and procedures brought before the council. They would also be a member of the University Assembly which meets twice a year. Schrock added that Andrea Kruszka will be on the Administrative Council as next years Chair to the Staff Advisory Committee. Carrie Harris, Amy Foster, Shana Eads and Bethany Jones were also willing to be considered as a member.

Amy Foster asked if we did the retreat in early August would we still be at the 50% capacity for rooms? President Oldham thought that 50% capacity would be lifted by then. Amy added that those on the academic side would have difficulty leaving the office from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. once the semester started.

President Oldham commented all the staff on campus have done a tremendous job getting us through this year with a lot of grace and hard work. Commencement will be outside tomorrow at Tucker Stadium. The number of Covid cases continue to shrink and more people are getting vaccinated. You can contact Leigh Ann in the Health Center if you still want to get vaccinated. I believe by next Fall things will be pretty normal again. We navigated Covid successfully and safely throughout the year when counts were high. We will continue to put safety at the very front.

We will graduate about 1400 students tomorrow. We are doing it in Tucker Stadium so we can do it in only two ceremonies versus five if done in the HOOP. We have had a record fundraising year, surpassing twenty-one million dollars. We have surpassed twenty-one million dollars in research funding, an all-time university record. We celebrated the opening of the Science Building and the Burnett Fitness Center. Landscaping and Grounds crew continue to do a fantastic job.

If we continue to live up to the message of putting students first, it really shows through. The numbers for SOAR registration and fall enrollment are very positive. The state has passed their budget and it is very good towards higher education. There is full funding for the Engineering Building and plan to break ground by early September. Eight million dollars for maintenance projects, including the Derryberry Auditorium, Wattenbarger Auditorium and outdoor lighting projects. Half a million dollars for the Cyber Security Center and also a salary increase. In the May check for all full time and prorated for part time employees will be a thousand-dollar year-end bonus. Starting July 1st there will be a salary increase of between 1-7% to all employees who have received a satisfactory performance rating.

Regarding freedom of speech on campus; TN Tech supports free speech but also have professional standards of conduct that we adhere to. It is a HR matter and will follow policy and it will be handled appropriately. This year we have been very resilient and have been able to adjust and modify things on the fly. Thanks for a great year.

Other such matters: Angie Wells mentioned that someone had asked about the Peachtree Street construction project. Oldham replied that they have not seen a final design yet. Hopeful to start construction late this summer. To complete the whole project will take approximately twelve months. Will do our best to schedule construction so it will have the least negative impact on the campus. It will be an imposition. Kim Meredith thanked President Oldham for the raise and everything you do for us too.

Bethany Jones asked about masks, do we know where we are at with the masks? Oldham replied that his gut feeling is we won't be required to wear masks on campus by fall. We will do it the right way at the right time. As we get more people vaccinated more people are getting comfortable. Amy Foster commented that the football stadium used to be open for exercise and has never reopened. Oldham replied that student athletes in season had to be tested several times a week. The main reason it was closed was to minimize unforeseen exposure. Within the next few weeks the football turf will be replaced so it will be closed due to construction for the good part of the summer. He expected it to reopen in fall.

Lee Wray added that the parking on Peachtree will remain behind Henderson, TJ Farr Hall and Memorial Gym, it would just be accessed differently. Peachtree would be pedestrian only from Wings Up Way to A Street. Kim Meredith asked about the gravel they are using instead of mulch is there a chance we could have that at the HOOP. President replied yes you could. Mark should talk with the ground's folks. Charlene complimented the landscaping people for working so hard on a Sunday. Shana Eads added that there are plans to use the landscape gravel in other places. Due to Covid the price shot up and we are waiting for it to come back down. The waterfall was named Fearless Falls.

Bethany Jones motioned to adjourn. Andrea Kruszka seconded. Adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Donna Schrock, recorder