

Staff Council Minutes
February 26, 2009

In attendance: Craig Turnbull, Bob Casmus, Jean Wurster, Peggy Mason, Karen Setliff, Amy Williams, Shane Flowe, Curt Cribb, Richard Pickle, Todd McComb, Trish Powlas, Lisa Hilliard, Sharon Newsome and Lois Williams (visitor).

Craig Turnbull called the meeting to order and introduced Ms. Lois Williams, Vice-President for Enrollment Management. He then asked Ms. Williams to address the group.

Ms. Williams reported that we have 93 freshman deposits for fall and two transfer deposits. We are currently 10 ahead for freshman and down seven transfers based on last year's information. She mentioned the challenge placed before the Board of Trustees that they each recruit one student for Catawba. Admissions are in the process of putting together an Admissions 101 packet for the Trustees and asked that we as staff recruit students wherever we are. If any staff member would like a copy of the Admissions 101 packet, please let her know. Admissions is also looking at social networking sites, such as Face book to aid in recruiting. The Admissions office is continuing its work with the Alumni Board to get their assistance with receptions. Ms. Williams mentioned that the economy is a concern as well as the tuition increase. With the economy, there are more requests than ever for financial assistance. There will be some increase in financial aid to help offset the cost. Over the summer, Admissions will re-evaluate how financial aid is structured. Ms. Williams also reported that beginning next week; Rashad Smith will be visiting community colleges. Hopefully this will assist with increasing our transfer numbers. Ms. Williams complimented Karen Setliff of our Evening and Graduate Studies program on being so well known at the community colleges. They know her and she is doing a great job. She commented that when speaking to recruits that the Admissions team emphasizes the small class size, professor relationships, and key programs such as Teacher Education, Environmental Science and the Center for Environment as well as Music and Theatre. Athletics is another draw; students like to attend a "football" or an athletic school. We just need to maximize the things that we do well and grow our applicant pool.

Craig Turnbull then addressed the agenda and informed the group that staff donated over 300 pounds of canned goods to Rowan Helping Ministries. Our next drive is March 30 through April 9 for toiletry items. Craig mentioned that he had a meeting with Chuck Williams and Henry Haywood regarding items stored in Heath Hill. They suggested that Staff Council sponsor a yard sale for those items and any monies received donated to Rowan Helping Ministries on behalf of the College. Staff Council agreed that this was a good idea. Craig suggested that we host the yard sale in conjunction with Faculty Senate. Craig will discuss further with Mr. Williams and Mr. Haywood.

The next item on the agenda was date for the full staff meeting for spring. That date is March 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Tom Smith Auditorium. Ms. Kathy McDuffy of Rowan-Salisbury School System will address the group in regards to the graduation project required for all high school students. Larry Farmer of Human Resources will also update staff on where the College stands in regards to cutbacks, whether there will be lay-offs, or if employees will begin paying a portion of their health care, etc.

Staff Council will begin identifying new council members to replace those members rotating off the board.

Craig Turnbull then discussed the upcoming Awards Convocation. The President's Office has decided to shift both the President's Award for Staff Excellence and the Louise Tucker Award back to Staff Council. A sub-committee of Staff Council tabulated the results of nomination forms and Staff Council voted via secret ballot today. Winners will be announced during Awards Convocation. There was a discussion to reset the criteria for voting for this award.

Reminder: The next regular Staff Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Hayes Field House.

Sharon Newsome
Recorder