

Staff Council Minutes
January 27, 2009

In attendance: Craig Turnbull, Bob Casmus, Jean Wurster, Peggy Mason, Karen Setliff, Amy Williams, Shane Flowe, Curt Cribb, Jane Snider, Richard Pickle, Todd McComb, Sharon Newsome and Dr. Richard Stephens (visitor).

Craig Turnbull called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Stephens (Provost). He then asked Dr. Stephens to address the group.

Dr. Stephens thanked the group for the invitation and commented that he has had many conversations since arriving two weeks ago and he *is* listening. He feels that everyone needs to be doing everything they can to recruit and retain students. He and others are very focused on working on retention of students. Approximately three-fourths of all students who enroll in college will transfer institutions. Dr. Stephens stated that he is a strong supporter of staff toward the mission of the college. The group had an opportunity to ask Dr. Stephens questions. It was asked the reason he decided to accept Catawba's offer. Dr. Stephens responded that he was looking for a good fit and a place to be part of a team. He said that when he interviewed, people went out of their way to make him feel welcome.

Dr. Stephens was asked about enrollment and if he feels that Catawba should recruit solid (in various ways) students and add value to those students. There are discussions with faculty in regards to curriculum flexibility, building multiple learning experiences and double majors. Catawba needs to keep adjusting to students' needs. There was a question about the foreign language requirement and Dr. Stephens responded that everything was on the table. Another question arose in regards to the possibility of lowering the cost of tuition for all students. That is not an option at this time it appears. First, we need to build a solid funded scholarship base and not increase unfunded scholarships. The President is discussing alternatives for accelerated learning (earning 24 credits in three years) and a curriculum that is flexible to our students. There was a concern about competing with other institutions and getting students to choose Catawba without lowering tuition. Dr. Stephens commented that we have to show them we are worth the investment.

Dr. Stephens asked that we be very forward with him in addressing concerns. He needs people talking to him to know what is going on around campus. He thanked the group for the invitation.

Craig Turnbull then addressed the agenda and informed everyone that Lois Williams, Vice President for Enrollment Management will address the group at our next meeting, Thursday, February 26, 2009.

The next item on the agenda was the Supervisor rating form. There was only twenty-eight percent participation for supervisor evaluations. There were 48 forms turned in to Larry Farmer (Director of Human Resources). Larry relayed to Craig that most comments were positive.

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. Nomination forms will be going out on February 6, 2009. The deadline to turn in the forms is February 16, 2009. A sub-committee of Staff Council will tabulate the results of nomination forms and the top three candidates sent to Staff Council for a final vote at the next meeting, February 26, 2009. Staff Council will have final vote on February 26, 2009.

The discussion then moved to our final agenda item, Staff Council Community Service project. This quarter's drive is for DRIED GOODS, CANNED GOODS, AND OTHER NON-PERISHABLES and will begin Feb 2, end Feb 13.

Drop boxes will be located in the following campus buildings:

- Hedrick Administration Building (outside of the Registrar's Office)
- Abernethy Gymnasium (main desk area)
- Hayes Field house
- Library
- Cannon Student Center (Student Affairs Suite)
- Ketner Hall

Reminder: The next regular Staff Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Sharon Newsome
Recorder