

AFSCME Staff Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Friday, November 14, 2008
9:30 a.m.
TRF Campus, Room 545; EGF Campus, Room 106

Members Present: Bobbie Bloom, Casey Wedin, Sandy Bratvold, Lynell Wayne, Cory Feller, Becky Lindseth, Kent Hanson, Lori Johnson, Bonnie Klasen, Anne Temte; Cindy Cedergren, Recorder.

Absent: Sue Ridley

Holiday Week Schedules: Since some departments have inquired about holiday schedules, President Temte thought it was appropriate to remind employees that she will not be releasing on-duty employees early on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Supervisors will be encouraged to approve leave during the holiday weeks while still maintaining services to students. Becky stated that an employee may request a work schedule change in advance, within the work week (Wed-Tues). A memo clarifying the options will be sent to AFSCME employees.

Strategic Planning: President Temte and Kent Hanson reported on the next steps for strategic planning. On January 7, all employees will participate in a 2-hour "Kick-Off" activity on each campus. Discussion was held on how to entice more interest in this process. A suggestion was made to change "Strategic Planning" to something else. It was noted that we need to do something to keep the plan "alive" throughout the year, so it doesn't become just a document collecting dust on a shelf. It was suggested that articles or communications throughout the year be written to demonstrate what is being done to implement the plan.

A question was raised - "how do we measure student success"? Lynell commented that some students don't get their diploma simply because they don't enroll in a required developmental course. Those students are not counted as completers, just because they lack one course. We may need to do a better job of advising students so they take the courses they must have, and ensure that students don't take unnecessary courses. Maybe the college should develop shorter certificate programs.

Round Table Discussions:

On-Line Applications: Bonnie Klasen reported there are still problems with on-line applications not being routed to the college. Kent Hanson reported that Mary Fontes has been and continues to work with MnSCU on this issue, and he appreciated being told that the problems still exist. It was suggested that the college set up a method to communicate to persons submitting on-line applications that they should contact the college after a specific period of time if they had not received a response from the college. Kent will gather information on this issue and report back at the next meeting.

Bonnie also reported there were several changes within this semester that had an effect on student's financial accounts – changes in state grants, recalculation of fees, etc. But

she stated that she's seen very few complaints about the changes. Sandy Bratvold stated she did not receive any first-hand complaints from students regarding the recalculation of fees.

Members were encouraged to submit agenda items for the next meeting to Cindy Cedergren.

Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2008; TRF Room 545, EGF Room 106 – 9:30 a.m.

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder