

AFSCME Staff Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Thursday, October 8, 2009
9 a.m.
TRF Campus, Room 545; EGF Campus, Room 301

Members Present: Bobbie (Bloom) Taylor, Sandy Bratvold, Cory Feller, Bonnie Klasen, Lynell Wayne, Rosie Gustafson, Anne Temte, Becky Lindseth, Jenny Donarski.

Absent: Casey Wedin, Kent Hanson, Becky Lindseth

New Member: Jenny Donarski was welcomed to the Council.

Possible Shortage of Facilities Staff at EGF: Bobbie Bloom asked if there were any plans to add facilities staff at the EGF Campus due to the increased amount of square footage to the campus. Concerns were raised that the facility may suffer if staffing is not maintained. President Temte stated that if he believes increased staff is necessary, it is the responsibility of the Director of Facilities to submit a formal request for additional staffing to be considered in next year's budget, and he has not made that request. She stated that the vacancy created by Pat Bagley's retirement will be filled internally, creating another vacancy to be back-filled. She encouraged employees to use the grouplink ticket process to request their facility needs to ensure that the facilities staff are aware of what needs their attention. It was noted there is a shortage of intermittent staff available at the EGF Campus, to fill in when full-time employees are on leave or reassignment.

Swenson House Update: Lynell Wayne inquired about the plans for the Swenson House. President Temte stated that the costs to operate the facility are too high (approx. \$50,000-70,000 including staff time) to maintain. She stated that a feasibility study task group was formed last year to make recommendations to administration. The group came to the conclusion that it may not be financially feasible to keep the facility, nor to market it enough to make it cash flow. President Temte stated that current COI and Foundation offices will be moved to the campus soon, and administration will work with the Office of the Chancellor, the City, and others this year to discuss next steps. She stated the Swenson House was not necessary to the college mission.

Support Staff In-Service Follow-Up: Lynell Wayne stated that she enjoyed having the workshop in Warren, but the room set up & size were no longer working well for the group. Discussion was held on alternative space for next year. President Temte stated that administration had considered scheduling the workshop at the EGF Campus this fall to showcase the new areas, but lack of available classroom space for several hours prohibited that plan.

Healthy Campus Committees: Lynell Wayne inquired about the status of the TRF Healthy Campus Committee, and whether any activities were being developed this fall. There is currently no chair for the TRF committee, and Lynell was encouraged to seek staff membership via an email invitation if she so desired. All employees were invited to join committees recently.

FY11 Budget Reductions: President Temte reported that administration is proposing reductions in faculty assignments for FY11, the largest changes occurring in nursing. She stated the college pays approximately \$240,000 in release credits to nursing faculty. Administration plans to reduce and/or eliminate those assignments and hire a Dean of Nursing. She stated that the average student/faculty ratio is nearly the lowest among MnSCU colleges. She stated that although administration is taking a logical approach with rationale, that doesn't mean people will like it. She stated that the projected funding for 2012 and 2013 also looks bleak.

President Temte stated that the college is considering the development of shorter certificate programs in technical and liberal arts areas, for people who can't commit to a two-year program.

Bobbie Taylor asked whether the Academic Deans positions will change with the addition of a Dean of Nursing, and whether an Office and Administrative Support staff would be added. President Temte stated that faculty cannot supervise faculty so establishing another Dean position would relieve the current Academic Deans of the supervision of all nursing faculty. President Temte stated she believed that the Dean of Nursing may likely be located at the EGF Campus, and no plans for additional staff have been made or discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009; 9 a.m.; EGF 301, TRF 662.

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder