

Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting
September 19, 2006 Minutes
APPROVED

Present: Barb Arbogast, Vicki Bryan, Martha Burk, Pam Burress, Sarita Cox, Linda Klawitter, Steve Lancaster, Andy Monninger, John Moss, Melody Palm, Pat Schnitker, Nancy Spangler, Jan Jolynn Staley, Ron Thompson, Dave Turner
Absent: Julie Caplinger, Jac Copes, Jack Wylie
Guests: Jan Cook, Annuitants Representative

Melody called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Minutes of the two previous meetings (August 15 and September 5) were approved as written -- John/Linda

Pat distributed copies of Treasurer's Report – Current balance (as of 9/05/06) in GR account is \$6945.07. Balances in Credit Union (CU) account as of 8/31/06 are: Savings: \$25.85; Scholarship fund: \$2,196.30; Checking: \$6,189.72. As approved at Sept 5 meeting, \$500 will be moved from CU checking to CU scholarship fund. Checks to our scholarship recipients will be distributed shortly. Monies collected from, and expenses for, the September 15 Picnic on the Plaza have not yet been determined. The balance in our Foundation Accounts as of 8/31/06 are: Service and Carl Johansen Awards: \$500 (with an outstanding check for \$250 already requested for the current semester); in the Scholarship Account, \$0.00 – A deposit of at least \$2000 and disbursements already totaling \$1000 for recent scholarship awards, will be recorded soon.

On-Going Business:

- Picnic – Chairman Steve reported that specific details as to receipts and expenses are not yet compiled but expects to be able to report those totals at the next meeting. Some of the comments/feedback heard re: picnic were as follows:
 - Not enough cookies – need at least 2 per person (however, there were cookies left over)
 - Tickets were too small
 - Requests for vegetarian meals (it was suggested that advertising next year should indicate 'vegetarian meal will be available with advance request')
 - Comments were favorable that food was purchased from Campus Dining
 - Chicken costume was a big hit!

Motion was made to reimburse Christa Lawhun (AKA "Chicken Lady") for mileage expenses in picking up and returning the chicken suit to/from Champaign – 44.5 cents per mile; 2 round trips at 120 miles each. Vicki/Ron; motion carried.

Left over water and soda can perhaps be used for Fall bus trip or distributed at homecoming parade.

- Scholarships – Nine Civil Service Dependent Scholarships were awarded this year and distribution of awards is in progress. Additional funds (from picnic, etc) will be transferred to scholarship account.
- Fall Bus Trip – Pam provided council members with a printout of the itinerary -- OpenLine has signup form on front page – this is not just a shopping trip – opportunity to visit museums and other places of interest. Reservations will be accepted through October 13. Full refunds for cancellations will be given through October 13. Participants may find their own substitute but no refunds will be given after October 13. Anyone transferring their ticket needs to contact Pam Burress in advance of trip. Participants will have the opportunity to stow items on the buses – items should be properly marked/labels.
 - Pam will maintain a manifest for each bus.
 - Kevin suggested offering left over seats to students at a reduced rate (probably one way

Motion to waive \$20 fee for bus coordinator and provide one door prize per bus (\$20/price of ticket) Ron/Jan Jolynn; motion carried

Motion to allow committee to provide “Goodie Bag” for each bus trip participant at a cost of \$1 per person; Sarita/Pat; motion carried.

- Legislative/Marketing – Steve hopes to have material/results of Marketing survey ready for review/discussion in a couple of meetings / Legislative – no report
- Annuitants Representative – In preparation for attending the next annuitants (SUAA) board meeting, Jan is interested in getting some feedback from our group regarding the proposed dues restructuring. Currently, there are six different levels of dues statewide and nine different rates for automatic dues deductions. SUAA is proposing to condense this to only four levels of dues rate. The raise in dues has been proposed to help offset the proposed addition to central office staff as well as a general increase in operating expenses. Jan noted that when the price of lunch at the meeting was raised, the attendance gradually decreased and is wondering if an increase in dues will cause a drop in membership (current members will not renew and new folks will not join) which will decrease operating budget. Some of the comments from this discussion were as follows:
 - What do I get for my dues/membership? In my current situation this amount doesn't seem like much of a hardship – but later as a retiree on a fixed income, I might feel differently.
 - Exactly why do they need additional staff members? Perhaps this is, in part, a desire for the unit to look more impressive / more important.
 - Many departments here on campus are working with reduced staff (due to budget cuts/hiring freeze, etc.) so how is it that paid staff positions can be added to this unit?
 - Perhaps there are retirees and/or others that would welcome the opportunity to volunteer their services for the cause.
 - Dave mentioned that he has frequently encouraged folks to join the organization and support their efforts. With an increase in dues, he might not feel as comfortable in doing so.
 - Dave also suggested that if the dues increase is passed, perhaps it would be wise to hold off on increasing the paid staff until it can be determined if the level of membership will adequately support an increase in staff salaries.
 - Melody suggested that the group should assess their goals for leadership and determine what those goals are – if goals are being met, additional staff may not be needed.
 - Jan indicated that previously and currently volunteers were/are maintaining the unit – running the area of communication/public relations, etc and a volunteer has been maintaining the website
- Academic Senate/Campus Information – no report – should have report at next meeting
Melody reported that some of the information shared at a meeting with Dr. Bowman on September 13 were:
 - Currently there are a number of faculty searches going on and this should help in bringing back a better ratio of faculty/students
 - This fall ISU had the largest freshman applicant pool in history
 - ACT scores averaged 23.9

- Minority enrollment is stable but somewhat diminished – graduate student enrollment has dropped (Pat indicated that graduate student enrollment figures can not be evaluated until toward the end of the term as some graduate students enrolling in off-campus extension classes apply to the University, their academic program, and enroll in that class at the first class meeting on that site. Subsequently that paperwork is often not submitted to the Registrars' office until the faculty member has grades to submit for those students, which may occur at various times throughout the term.)
- The President's State of the University Address is today at 2:00 – one item he will speak on is salary enhancement for faculty and staff
- OpenLine – is a six page issue this time – reminder that October 11 is ISU Community Night at Monical's Pizza – this is a fundraiser – a portion of all sales, accompanied with the proper form, will be donated to Civil Service Scholarship Fund.
- Human Resources – no report – will have something next time (info wanted to share will be discussed at a meeting tomorrow)
- Other – Council of Councils meeting is scheduled for October 6. Melody is planning to attend – deadline to register just passed – probably could yet register if someone would like to go along – she is leaving at 6:30 a.m. – not staying overnight

Reminders:

- Deadline for next 2 OpenLines — Oct 3, Nov 7
- Homecoming Parade—October 14 --- AP council
- Bus Trip Downtown Chicago—November 4
- Children's Holiday Party—December 2
 - Barb announced that she has confirmed Reggie's attendance at the party – but need to let him know what time to be there – only stays in costume for 45 minutes. It was agreed that he should be there at 11:00 / same as Santa – for pictures, etc.
 - Barb has received a coloring page and a puzzle page – copies will need to be made and this will be included in the 'goody bag'.

Web Sites:

- State Universities Civil Service System: <http://www.sucss.state.il.us>
- SUCSS Classification Status Notices: <http://www.sucss.state.il.us/cpm.asp>
- Annuitants: <http://www.annuitants.ilstu.edu>
- Civil Service Council: <http://www.cscouncil.ilstu.edu>
- A/P Council: <http://www.apcouncil.ilstu.edu>
- Academic Senate: <http://www.academicsenate.ilstu.edu>
- Human Resources: <http://www.hr.ilstu.edu>

Adjournment -- Ron/Linda 1:00 p.m.; motion carried