

SEAS Employee Council Meeting
April 18, 2006
Rodman Room, Thornton Hall

Present: Jo Ann Addison, Christopher Ditmar, Marci Foote, Katherine Harlow, Virginia Hilton, Lisa Meadows, Kristl Nelson, Vanessa Pace, Brad Saylor, Lewis Steva, Sherri Thompson

Call to Order

- Sherri Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Old Business

- The Rewards and Recognitions policy was approved with a few revisions. Human Resources increased the reward amount. The council decided that it would be best to keep the awardees private instead of making the information public.

New Business

- The table was turned over to Brad Saylor to discuss a few issues. The first concerned work related training. There are times when more specialized training is needed requiring the departments to come up with money to pay for it. Would it be reasonable to ask if the Engineering School would be willing to match funds provided by departments to off-set the cost? Brad made a motion to ask the Dean if this was a possibility, it was put to a vote and failed 3 to 3, with the other members abstaining. The group felt this would be more effective to take it on a case by case basis, rather than having a policy in place. The next issue raised by Brad was related to the new Nanotech center that will be opening soon. He suggested that it might be helpful to see if there could be any training made available to current staff members that might help them get a job in the new center. Or at least ask the Dean if current staff members could be informed of new employment opportunities associated with the new building. Sherri will talk with Dean Aylor about this.
- The next order of business was to discuss the unsightly dumpsters around Thornton. The council discussed if there are any measures that can be taken to hide them or somehow make them look better. Suggestions given included getting smaller dumpsters, relocating them, changing the color or putting up visual barriers. Sherri will take the matter to B. Thurneck.
- Brad raised the question of having a defibrillator in the Engineering school. He asked if the council could get a report on the status of acquisition of and training for (including CPR) a defibrillator.
- Brad also told the council to keep in mind that our terms end August 31 and that elections will be coming up.

- There will be an employee picnic, Lisa said announcements would be going out soon.
- Brad brought up the idea of having a SEAS Employee Council Service Project, the idea was enthusiastically received by the council. Members were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting.
- Sherri then brought up the possibility of addressing flextime with the Dean. Due to the rising cost of gas, it would benefit employees who have long commutes. It could also serve as a morale booster, even if it were for a short, specific amount of time (like the summer when there aren't many students around).
- Marci Foote suggested that there is a need for an employee lounge area. There is currently a staff-only bathroom on the first floor of Thornton that the council wondered if it would be possible to turn it into a lounge.
- Marci also asked about records management. Currently, old records are kept out in the old Ivy stacks, which is not a manageable space. She wondered if we could work with records management to make a policy about how to better handle keeping.
- The council's current secretary will be leaving, Brad Saylor offered to take minutes at the May meeting and the council will decide from there what to do.
- Also, Ginny Hilton will be retiring and this will be her last meeting. Thanks for your service and congratulations!

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am
- The next SEAS Employee Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2006 at 2:00 pm in the Rodman Room.

Submitted by Kristl Nelson
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