Staff Advisory Council
Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2015, @ 10:30am
Edwards 164

Members Present: Matthew Crawford, Sandra Cannone, Robyn Diven, Melissa Todd, Bill Edmonds, Judy Davis, Lisa Dent, Allison Tanner, Dana Booth, David Betsch, Dan Lawless and Lisa Bernadyn.

Members Absent: Lynn Silver, Bertha Fladger, Kevin Bowers and Samantha Kite.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the June 4, 2015 minutes was made by Matthew Crawford and seconded by Melissa Todd. The minutes were approved by the members.

Old Business

Follow up discussion on the following items:

- Suggestion: “It would be greatly beneficial for the university to look into various ways of incorporating Trikkes into the daily life of its entire community. There are PALS classes offered for Trikkes, but there is no visible information regarding access to them like there is for bikes.

  Part One of this suggestion is to recommend a program similar to the Coastal Cycles program, if there is not one in development or already established. Coastal’s branding can be applied, and similar locking mechanisms can be appropriated to secure them around campus. Bike racks around campus could be replaced or modified to accommodate locking Trikkes.

  Part Two promotes Trikkes for use by faculty and staff for ease of transportation and wellness. Departments and colleges would own a number of Trikkes, especially in place of golf carts for when passengers or cargo are not needed. If obtainable and feasible, there are small carriages that can be attached to a Trikke for cargo. There are also electric Trikkes available.

  This initiative could also include fun challenges where participating departments and colleges can see who uses their Trikkes the most or farthest in a month, weather and schedules permitting. Capable technology would have to be included for tracking data for this or similar ideas, and incentives and rewards may be added.

  Part Three offers an optional "Coastal Trikke Tour" for visitors who are able and interested. Quick training can be offered at the start of the tour.

  Part Four recommends a Campus Recreation adventure or challenge with Trikkes on campus and/or at accessible off-campus locations.

  Part Five is simply that Chauncey deserves his own Trikke.”

Ms. Tanner reported she left a message for Dr. Darden, Chair of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport Studies, and is waiting for his response. Ms. Tanner also spoke with Ms. Davis in Campus Recreation regarding this suggestion and shared the trikkes belong to Dr. Darden’s department and are used for academic use. Ms. Tanner will follow up with Dr. Darden.

Ms. Tanner reported she had spoken with Dr. Darden and was informed in the past he was contacted about renting the trikkes. Ms. Tanner shared student lab fees cover the cost of the trikes and that is what they are primarily used for. It was reported it is not completely out of the question if someone is interested in using a trikke they would need to contact Dr. Darden. Currently, the trikkes are in the shop receiving necessary maintenance.
Ms. Tanner also followed up with Ms. Davis in Campus Recreation to inquire if trikkes would be purchased for Campus Recreation, at the current time there is no plans for this.

- “I was reading a news article regarding the Senate budget deal. The Senate has approved South Carolina’s $7 billion budget after reaching an agreement that gives most state employees an $800 bonus. The deal will spend $23.5 million on the bonuses for state employees who make less than $100,000. I pasted the above from the article listed on WBTW News 13 website. Does this apply to the employees making less than $100,000 at Coastal? I did see the policy we received regarding bonuses last week. I was not sure how that applied to this situation. Thank you for your time.”

  D. Lawless spoke with Staci Bowie, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer regarding this question and reported yes, this does apply to employees at Coastal.

- “In the new policies and provisions email sent out last Friday, there were statements that seem to be contradictory. Under Program Provisions, article G, it states: Should an employee voluntarily resign or be involuntarily separated at any time within the two-year period immediately following his/her most recent semester as a student, all or half (see Section H. below) of the full tuition cost for the respective class(es) taken must be paid back to the University. The tuition cost will be deducted from the employee’s final paycheck and/or annual leave payout (if applicable). Any monies remaining after the deduction will be paid to the employee. Should the amount of the paycheck fall short of total payment required, the employee will owe the balance to the University. The employee has a maximum of 60 days by which to pay the full amount owed or to make payment arrangements. All payment arrangements must be approved by the CFO. Exceptions to this section may only be made by the President or his designee. Under Employees Separating from the University, article B, it states: An enrolled faculty or staff member who leaves University employment while taking a class for which tuition has been waived will be allowed to continue in the course tuition-free but will not be permitted to enroll in additional courses under the program. So if an employee leaves the university will they be responsible for paying back tuition costs?”

  D. Lawless spoke with Staci Bowie, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer regarding this question and reported yes, an employee would be required to pay back the tuition costs if they leave the University.

- “Will there be a softball league this year? If not, why?”

  S. Kite received the following response from Lamonica Yates, Director, Training and Development, “There will be no softball league this year. The focus of T&D is changing with the organizational re-structuring. A determination of employee events that may continue to be facilitated by our department will be made in the near future.”

- “I work in Singleton and park in Lot J but since school has ended the gate has been raised. I have on two separate occasions been almost hit head-on with cars coming in the exit side. I am very careful and watch where I am driving but this has happened twice with people driving in the exit side for a short cut and ones driving out the entrance gate. I checked and with the gates up you cannot see where it says exit only wrote on the gate. Is there something that can be displayed so everyone (visitors) will know there is an entrance and exit before someone gets hit head-on? Thanks”

  M. Crawford spoke with Phillip Moore, Major of Operations for Public Safety and reported the gates will remain open until the start of the Fall semester. There is enough room to fit two cars at once in the opening and to use caution. The barcodes will be active until June 30, 2015.

  S. Kite shared it was asked of her to inquire why half of University Boulevard coming in from 501 looks very nice and the other half is not kept as nice.
D. Lawless forwarded this question to Rein Mungo, Interim Director of Facilities and shared that section of land is still owned by the state and the state has limited funds. Mr. Lawless did share the concern that it does not give a good first impression to visitors.

New Business

Suggestion Boxes: There were no suggestions.

- **Web Page Comments:**

  - Suggestion: “We have heard that as of July 1st, those of us who have to work in buildings that have gated parking, will have to now pay for parking. Why is it that 1). We still have yet to be informed of this change in writing and 2). Only those of us who work in areas with gated parking have to pay?” Gating the parking lots was not our decision so why are we being punished and having to pay while those who work in other buildings will pay nothing? It should be the same across the board.

  D. Lawless forwarded this suggestion to Staci Bowie, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and received the following response, “Yes it’s true, students pay to park and faculty/staff are now being asked to pay as well. The parking committee and those in administration agreed to this partial pay option. By paying for privileged parking it still allows free parking for those faculty/staff that do not want to pay. Bar codes will be turned off on June 30, 2105 and the gates will come back down when the Fall semester begins. The charge is $75.00 to active a bar code we wanted the website to be available to pay for that activation before we sent out a memo. Another option was to charge all faculty/staff yearly and we really wanted free options for them so we went with an intermediate plan. Faculty/staff that choose not to use the gated lots do not have to pay and will have plenty of options. I hope that helps to explain the rationale.”

  After discussion the council had several questions they would like to have more information on.

  The overall long term vision of parking
  Will there be a payroll deduction to help offset the fee
  What is the parking fee going to be used for

  - “Flags are at half-staff this morning, I assume because of the shootings in Charleston. It would be nice for an email or a tweet to go out mentioning who the flags are honoring. Many times I have no idea why...”

  M. Crawford shared Public Safety is responsible to lower the flags once they receive notification from the Governor who has the authority to do so. There is a website [www.gs.sc.gov/GS/GS-flags-status.phtm](http://www.gs.sc.gov/GS/GS-flags-status.phtm) (State House Flag Status) that shows when and why the flags are lowered.

- **Additional Discussion items by members:**

  - S. Cannone shared at a recent staff meeting she was asked to inquire why Staff Advisory Council is not a voice for the following items:

    Merit raises
    Raises tied to retention is unfair
    More work with more students and faculty without additional compensation

    It was discussed these questions may be more appropriate for a separate committee. D. Lawless will forward these suggestions to the appropriate department.
• D. Lawless shared that he had been asked to provide input on a possible expansion of the University Ombuds office, which currently provides services to only faculty.

After discussion, the Council expressed their support for recommending that the scope of the office be broadened to provide services to staff.

• D. Lawless acknowledged and thanked the following members who will be ending their service to the Staff Advisory Council: Sandy Cannone, Judy Davis, Allison Tanner, Dana Booth, Bertha Fladger, Samantha Kite, Melissa Todd, Robyn Diven and Lynn Silver.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm.

Next Meeting: The next SAC meeting will be held July 23, 2015 in Edwards 164.