

2024-2025 Administrative & Professional Staff Council
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
1:30 p.m.
Teams meeting

I. Call to Order

The December meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Bryson.

II. Roll Call and Announcement of Proxies

Members Present: Tena Bennett, Todd Bryson, Amy Eaton, Jeff Franklin, Rita Medina, Laura Morgan, Layla Murphy, Josi Rawls, Elyse Weller

Members Absent with Proxy: Caleb Hale (Proxy Josi Rawls), Rachel Frazier (Proxy Elyse Weller), Jasmine Winters (Proxy Laura Morgan)

Members Absent: Lilia Angel-Post, Carly Holtkamp, Peter Lucas

Guest: Melissa Laake

III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Motion: E. Weller

Second: J. Rawls

The minutes from 11/20/24 were approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Motion: L. Morgan

Second: T. Bennett

The agenda for today's meeting was approved as presented.

V. Guest Speaker: (none)

VI. Reports

A. Chair – Faculty and Staff Recognition and Appreciation Committee

T. Bryson stated we met on Monday. The meeting included Nick Wortman, constituency groups, Tina Bennett, and others. We talked about faculty and staff appreciation ideas to recognize staff; it's not the Staff Excellence Award. This is something N. Wortman would like to start. T. Bryson shared his screen of all the faculty and staff appreciation ideas. For example, get a week at the Rec. Center during fall or summer or HR attitude of gratitude voucher for Starbucks. If you have any other new ideas, please submit those to me and/or Tina since we're both on the committee. People want to be recognized. Not everybody gets recognized for the Lindell Sturgis Award or for staff excellence. It doesn't have to be departmental, but it may be campus wide. We did talk about making sure that we include School of Medicine, because they're on our campus (sometimes they get overlooked). Tasty Tuesday (25% discount at Marketplace) is done in the summer only. T. Bryson stated in Student Affairs we used to have a thing called Tut where we would pass it around to different people who were nominated; they would keep it for a week. The person who was nominated would then nominate the next person with their reason why. This was something that was recognized in Student Affairs, but not across campus. So, we're looking at maybe putting something in the campus newsletter to show recognition. T. Bryson stated he will meet with T. Bennett once a month to discuss ideas and then present to the committee.

T. Bryson stated there was a Board of Trustees meeting; it did not last long. If anyone has comments about it, please let me know.

B. Representatives to University Committees –

T. Bennett is on the search committee for the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. They are still looking for applicants. They have a good pool, but they still want more. Interviews are for the third week of January. This person will start their role in the middle to late part of spring.

E. Weller stated the state of Illinois overestimated how many students were going to be attending college in Illinois for the 2024-2025 year. So, they didn't make the cut off for MAP in time; there's going to be a reduction to the students' MAP Grants for the spring semester. They are doing a 4% reduction for each semester, so we're not going to go back and take money away from a student for the fall. We're going to have to reduce it in the spring by 8%, which will be approximately \$336 to a student. ISAC just announced this on Monday of this week about having a webinar to talk about this today at 2:00 p.m. I'm going to attend; we have lots of questions. I'm then meeting with Chancellor Lane, VC Wendell Williams and some other people to let them know everything that's going on. I've already worked with Taylor in University Communications so that we can have a slate e-mail go out to let students know we are reducing their award. ISAC does not have their system set up yet for us to be able to do the reductions. We were hoping to do it before break.

E. Weller stated as far as SAP (Student Academic Progress) goes, Rachel Frazier's office will have everything finished today. The 300 students that have conditions for satisfactory academic progress, we will hopefully have them reviewed before Friday when vacation starts. But if not, that'll just be something that will carry over until we get back.

C. Committee Appointments

- a. **Executive Committee** – Committee did not meet.
- b. **Committee on Committees** – (no report)
- c. **Constituency Relations** – J. Rawls stated we will have Happy Hour today. T. Bryson stated we have \$1,800 – what do we want to spend that money on for the spring semester? Are we going to do another event at the end of the year? I know we do the Staff Excellence Award; we recognize that person usually in April.
- d. **Operation Paper** – (no report)
- e. **Staff Benefit and Welfare** – L. Morgan stated no updates. We were still going to look at that survey for spring. T. Bryson stated what I shared with everyone today from the committee that Tina and I are on (Faculty & Staff Recognition and Appreciation Committee) you may want to take that over and discuss that with your committee. I think we're going to meet sometime in January. That might be something to do.

VII. Old Business – (none)

VIII. New Business

T. Bennett stated we have proposed to the student governments, Faculty Senate, and the Cabinet about Follett Access. This access will take physical books out from the bookstore and put them all on a digital shelf for students. Students will roughly pay \$25 (this is not a set number) per credit hour. That's the estimate we're using. They'll have all their books on day one in their D2L. A lot of students (60%+ of students) wait until after the first day of class to see if they need the books. So, this will help faculty be more accountable to get the books that they actually need. This is a course fee; financial aid will cover it. It'll actually go right onto their bill, and they don't see it. It should help on the scholarships end, because now instead of giving one student a \$1,200 scholarship, they can give four students \$300.00 scholarships. It's going to the

Board in February for review and April for approval. There is also a mental health fee going forward, which is \$5/credit hour to help pay and offset costs for mental health needs on campus. The Health Center is trying to get more counselors. The students were more than willing to actually pay \$5 for that and \$2.00 for the Health Center so that they can avoid a \$40 door fee, like we pay as a copay, and they'll keep their \$10 fee, so it should be a good thing.

L. Morgan spoke about the Student Success Council where action groups have been created. The areas are data reporting, equity gap focus, culture of caring, barriers, process and policy, technology, communication, first-year experience, student engagement and attendance, academic advising, and extended campus. Some of us are on that committee, and I think it's going to be the central driver of some of the things that were newly created with these action groups from Dr. Gehrke.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: T. Bennett

Second: J. Rawls