

Staff Council Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2010

Our Vision

Serve the common good of all UC Denver staff, communicate with a credible voice and council visibility; advocate to promote an inclusive, transparent environment, and engage staff at all levels of the university community. Staff Council shall promote unity, cooperation, and loyalty among all employees of the University of Colorado Denver.

President Deborah Makray called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. The council members and their supervisors enjoyed meeting and thanking one another's Supervisors and Managers.

Announcements and discussion

Review of and requests for additions to the agenda, nothing added.

Charita reported on the donations for the food boxes for Colfax Elementary School. The credit union provided \$300 for turkeys and a lot of canned foodstuff from the collection points. The process of assembling the boxes will occur Friday morning in the Scholarship Office at the Tivoli. Then the 50 - 60 boxes will be delivered to Colfax Elementary.

Brook Parsons has changed positions and resigned from Staff Council. We need volunteers for secretary and a new rep for UCSC. No immediate volunteers and some discussion of duties and time commitment. Contact Deborah Makray to volunteer for either position. A discussion of the process was held, melding into the upcoming timeline for the general election of new members.

General election of new members is the first quarter of the year so that new members are able to attend the April UCSC All Staff Council meeting. The vice presidents are co-chairs of the Election Committee; at least one other council member should be on the committee. Members holding expiring terms are notified and given the opportunity to nominate themselves. The election is announced and new member candidates are nominated, each nominee is verified by the co-chairs of their own intention and added to the ballot. A draft ballot is presented to council, usually the regular February council meeting. The final ballot is mailed to all classified staff with deadlines and a method of returning completed ballots for anonymous submission. New members are notified of their election by the end of March and a letter is sent to the new members' supervisors.

Q. When is the officers' election?

A. Officers are elected in May. The new and old slate plan the all day June planning meeting.

UCDenver is the next host of the regular UCSC council meeting. Miranda is coordinating the arrangements.

Guest Speaker: Tanya Kelly-Bowry, Vice President of Government Relations  
The Office of Government Relations supports the university by building relationships with the legislators and other elected officials. January through May is the regular session for legislation. November and December are filled with special committee meetings.

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) held a briefing last week. The University is the fourth largest employer in the state; initiating many startups through research programs. There is currently a hold on raises and staffing cuts. Tanya started as a lobbyist when the University budget was supported financially by the state at about twenty five percent. The support is now down to six percent. The university is pushing to get past the short term budget fixes and create a long term support plan. The goal is to educate legislators and the public about the benefit to young people through education and the general national interest created about the state of Colorado through the University. State lobbyists are a regular floe of information educating state legislators. Federal level legislators have longer session times and regular staffers specializing in areas of interest. The University of Colorado now has one regular staffer in Washington D.C. Tanya and her office is investigating which government agencies support the fields of study where our faculty and special interests compete well in order to best concentrate their efforts.

Election results changed the composite of the legislature of one vote difference between parties in the legislative houses. The Senate is now 20 Republicans and 15 Democrats with the split in the House 33-32 and a new governor. The first year working with a new governor is critical due to the appointments that will be made as well as getting to know the new governance members. The campuses cover several geographic areas thus there are many representatives to contact regarding interest and support. Tanya attempts to target campus representatives to match geographical representation as well as specialty areas.

More about the JBC presentation. The University is creating discussion points and beginning strategy for long term financial support of all programs. One of the current highlights focuses on development of the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) and attracting businesses that are not state supported. This focus supports the idea of creating and keeping jobs in Colorado as well as education of the youth in the state. Four billion dollars of cuts have been absorbed by the University. Not only taxes but laws and amendments requiring funding affect why CU no longer receives as much support. Boom and bust cycles affect cash flow. One option as solution is a tax increase with reinstatement to 2000 level of taxation. That is a step but won't cover the current shortfalls. Looking forward to other proposals....

Chancellor Wartgow is promoting high school relationships creating a pipeline to educate all who come from start to finish and eliminates student drops. SB 3 allowed some business process flexibility as a method to reward to staff of Higher Ed.

This year the work of the Government Office of Relations is not as aggressively introducing ideas and new programs but more in position to protect the small amount of funding higher education receives. Building relationships with the newly elected, both state and federal will consume considerable amounts of energy. Term limits have influenced how much more time is spent cultivating relationships.

Q. When speaking to Representatives how do you choose? Your own? The AMC? Downtown?

A. it is good to speak to the geographic or district representative of the campus location. it is a good idea to contact the office to place idea on agenda as an initiative or priority. Anyone may speak as a citizen, probably a good idea to mention where you work and that you are not representing the Univ.

Q. How can individuals have more effective communication with government officials?

A. 3-4 separate comments have more impact than tons of form letters. If you wish to facilitate information flow, make an outline of the facts then give to individuals for better personalization.

Tanya thanked us for the questions and will email her contact information to Deborah for distribution

#### Business

There were no November minutes to approve.

Treasurer's Report. Actual numbers not available at the moment. Planning for the rest of the fiscal year is occurring, including the UCSC meeting in April and the annual planning meeting in June. Please suggest expenditures for future planning and budgeting to Everlyn or other Executive Committee members soon.

#### Committee Reports:

Campus Life, Mary Mauck - working on calendar, year-end report and 2011 budget

Communications, Melissa Ledezma - newsletter is out and notice emailed to activities announce.

Diversity' Pereze Banks - "We are all still diverse". Waiting for January to meet with the Office of Diversity for planning.

Governance' Deborah Makray - meeting on December15

Legislative, Tracy Anderson - legislative session is ready to start, watch for a flurry of news

No further formal reports were given due to lack of time.  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Mauck