

Staff Council Notes Dec. 9, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

We meet the second Wednesday of every two months from 10-12.

In attendance:

Molly Pickel, IMET

Lisa Ross, CA

Samantha Mais, CBL

April Lewis, CA

Michelle Prentice, IMET

Rhonda Schwinabart, AL

Rona Kobell, MDSG

Amy Griffin, CA/CBL

Kurt Florez, CA

Theresa Holloway, CBL

Cami Martin, AL

Julia Bliss, HPL

Peter Goodwin, UMCES/CA

(One attendee via phone)

Approval of October minutes: Approved and seconded.

Committee Updates/Membership

● Executive (April)

Open enrollment wrapped up; it was a busy time for the HR department.

The United Way Campaign has been successful: we are \$1,500 over our goal as of Dec. 9. We have raised about 9k

CA has organized a zooming for the holidays party.

● Communication (Kevin)

Kevin Bruce wasn't in attendance. There was feedback that people liked the newsletter he sent out via Mailchimp

● Staff Awards (Michelle)

- ○ Email for BOR nominations - due Dec 18th
- ○ Discussion of UMCES Staff award presentation (SAD/Commencement; Peter Goodwin will join us.

- DEIC

- Do we have any updates on Federal guidelines? As of now, we do not, though it looks like the Trump order banning implicit bias training was rescinded.

- Regarding Sea Grant and the desire to do training: Lisa Ross and April Lewis say wait for guidance from DEIC.
- We don't do a lot of training.
- DEI training is a special skill.
- Lisa/April do not have this training.
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Updates/Highlights

- ● Human Resources - Lisa

Not much to add after DEI and open enrollment reports

- ● Admin Council – April

Not much to add after previous reports.

- ● CUSS Update - Lori
- At CUSS, staff got an update on the status of the federal government budget, state, and USM. Lori reported that the Women's Forum went over their mission and Ellen Herbst was amazing.

- Staff Awards

We are slightly changing how we present the Staff Awards so that staff is more a part of the graduation.

We will present the staff awardee with a large check at Staff Appreciation Day. Then they get the plaque at the commencement ceremony. The award us \$500

Dr. Goodwin came to speak for this portion. He said staff is just as important as students. "They wouldn't be graduating without our collective efforts."

"We have staff that are committed to the institution. Having the ability to show that staff and faculty are a team. We work together. Without your efforts, we would simply never be successful."

Dr. Goodwin said staff should feel part of the graduation celebration.

Perhaps a double celebration, for staff and graduates, he said.

In terms of who we nominate, he said, "It's a staff award. You decide who gets it."

President's office will pay for travel to another lab to attend when the ceremony is in person again. It will be virtual this year.

- Lab Updates

- Appalachian Lab update: Working on e newsletter, the E holiday card, Virtual watershed moments, Doing a public event for the community; they have hired Rodney Richardson – pollinator ecologist – as a new staff member; they are doing work in the labs/

- IMET

- Three virtual workshops. 60 people attended 100 on Facebook live; There was a public lecture with Taylor Armstrong and AI Place: 59 attendees on Webex, 100 FB live views; they are working on putting annual report into Storymaps; all digital for the first time; Nina Lamba talked to students about budgeting in a life skills series

- CA

Update provided previously.

- MDSG

Also foing a virtual holiday card and party; putting a couple job announcements out for aquaculture positions and a fellowship.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM

- For the Staff Council, Rona Kobell, Secretary