



STAFF COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2012

Time& Location: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Mary Graydon Center, Room 245

Members Present: Matteo Becchi (Chair), Adell Crowe (Co-Chair), Kat Mirance (Secretary), Gerick Allen, Lena “Josie” Armentrout, Emily Curley, David Fletcher, Sarah Goldberg, Anna Olsson, Jawee Perla, Jason Poppe, and Tara Sabbagh,

Absences: Stephanie Cappuci, Elizabeth Horsley, Helen Lee, Kevin Mason, John Mayhan, Dori O’Donnell, Celina Ryan and Kristen Sorensen

Call to Order & Roll Call 11:45 AM

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Jackson from Human Resources

4 months full time prior to late registration

8 credits a semester, 20 a year, fall – summer

Undergraduate courses are tax free

Graduate level 5250 is tax free, above that is added to income. Pay taxes over 3 month period

No tax paid Jan, May and September.

Spouses/dependent tuition is fully taxable

2 years full time for children to use benefit, 4 year benefit.

Fully taxable

Coverage ends:

If you separate mid semester and it is not due organization your eligibility ends on the day your employment does, and you will be responsible for the pro-rated amount

Independent study is not covered by tuition remission

Tax must be applied during the period in which the course is taken

Will be looking in to the taxable income vs working fringe benefit

What if the field of study you want to pursue is not offered at AU?

Currently there is not a program for “build your own major/masters focus” but that could be something to look in to.

*Do not have to be enrolled as degree seeking to utilize the benefit

*certain courses may not be covered

Applying for tuition remission is separate from applying for a program

*when paying your semester fees, a gym membership is included as a student benefit

*tuition exchange is a competitive scholarship that you have to reapply for each year. Each school has a different policy/awarding strategy

**Generally based on merit

- I. Approval: Meeting Minutes from February 5th & 19th Meetings
- II. Approval: Meeting Agenda
- III. Current Business
 - a. Introduction of new member
 - b. Leadership message
 - i. Attendance
 - ii. Extra incentive – for compliance with attendance policy- extra day off
 - iii. Time limit for attendance- to be discussed next meeting
 - c. Election update- time frame
 - i. First we will send out a blast for nominations
 1. Matteo will initiate the request for the web form
 - ii. Nominations will close and voting ballot will be compiled
 - iii. Those nominated will be notified and elections will open up
 - iv. Elections will be 2 weeks
 - d. Diversity- reaching out to underrepresented groups on campus
 - i. Will be coming back in June to do a training
 - ii. Reach out to staff members who are non PC users about nominations/elections
 - e. BOT meetings
 - i. Impressive experience. The budget formulation process was fair and the welfare of the students and staff/faculty were considered.
 - ii. Lowest tuition increase in 30 years
 - iii. Increased financial aid
 - iv. Re-allocated interest from Endowment into our operating budget
- IV. New Business
 - a. New Initiatives
 - i. Women's History Month- posted to our FB page
 1. Zumbathon on Thursday
 - ii. Van pooling informational session
 1. John Mahan and Emily met with Terri Campbell. Terri had been approached from a van pooling company, re a new transportation option. Form a group of staff who live in the

same area/conveniently on the same route.
You could “lease” the van. Each participant would pay a fee for the month that covers the van, insurance and gas.

2. AU could facilitate the payment and grouping people together
3. Are we interested in hearing / entertaining a presentation from this company.
4. Emily will send out the information that she had thus far. And we will revisit this in the future

iii. New Shuttles

1. 3 new shuttles, not wrapped yet with the AU logo
2. Run on biodiesel
3. Have bike racks!

iv. Earth Month

1. April is Earth Month
2. Campus Beautification Day
 - a. Have a table on Campus beautification day
3. Electronic Drive
4. SC bike to work
5. Shoe Mountain
6. No plastic lunch-picnic

V. Suggestions for the Good of the Order

- a. Everyone should have an elevator speech so that when elections come around, each member can quickly tell them why staff council is great commitment.

VI. Adjournment 12:50 PM

Next Meeting: March 19th, 2012