

THE COUNCIL ON STAFF AFFAIRS

Minutes of September 14, 2004

1) Call To Order

Chair Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 in the University Center Theatre and welcomed guests Ronald Zaccari, Deborah Sikes, Marty Atkins, Brenda Faulkner, Ann Harris, Wanda Lockridge, Joe Mattachione, Bob Bell, Beverly Richardson-Blake, Jim Black, and Pat Beza. Members present: LeAnn Boyd, Sharon Butcher, David Bennett, Steve Fesler, Bobby Flowers, Shawn Gibbons, Beth Giddens, Inman Grimsley, Jeff Grant, Mike Hamm, Ann Holland, Stanley Jones, Bob Lee, Mike McKinley, Marshall McLane, Patrick Smith, Josie Stone, Rebecca Taylor, Trisha Taylor, Thor Withers, and Shana Yorkey. Proxies: Bobby Flowers to Mike McKinley, Bob Lee to Trisha Taylor, Tim Yorkey to Shana Yorkey. Members absent were LeAnn Boyd, Bobby Flowers, and Tim Yorkey. Bob left early due to a prior commitment.

2) Special Order Of The Day æ Employee of the Semester

Dr. Zaccari announced the nominees for Employee of the Semester: Wanda Lockridge, President's Office; Ann Harris, Student Health Services; Brenda Faulkner, Housing & Residence Life; Marty Atkins, Plant Operations; and Deborah Sikes, OASIS. Deborah Sikes congratulated as the Employee of the Semester.

Special Order of the Day æ Presentation by the President

Dr. Zaccari gave a preview of the information planned to present to the Deans on September 15th began by reassuring members and guests that his first goal is to take care of the employees. The President stressed that his commitment is to the employees and that he will do everything possible to retain jobs; however, this round of cuts will make that difficult to accomplish. Dr. Zaccari said that he does not want anyone to panic, and we are working hard to stay in contact with the Chancellor's office. . . I just can't promise there will be no layoffs. æ The total amount that must be cut across the entire USGS system is \$69 million; VSU portion of that is \$1.79 million (Handout #1), an amount approximately equal to VSU payroll for the month of June. If the cuts are not made, there will be no more salaries and fringe benefits for the month of June, 2005. Possible options for funding the budget cut are a tuition increase and a reduction in personnel. The 2005 FY budget (the one we are currently under) was based on forecasted increased enrollment; VSU is actually down 200 students, resulting in less money than anticipated. However, these numbers can be misleading because the number of undergraduate students has actually increased. The lower overall number is due to fewer the mandatory spending cuts, abide by the USGS Budget Principles (see Handout #1) and still accomplish our core mission of high-quality classroom instruction.

Since Dr. Zaccari came to VSU just 31 months ago, the university has lost \$9,000,000 in funding. In attempts to meet past budget cuts, off-campus program directors, coordinators, and teachers at our satellite campuses have already been laid-off. In recent years we have experienced dramatic increases in enrollment, but because the current year's funding is based on information and enrollment of two years ago, planning for and funding current needs can be problematic. As a university, our first mission is, and must be, teaching. Dr. Zaccari stated that we must shift more resources to the classroom and other teaching priorities in order to fulfill this mission. Governor Purdue challenged all universities to rethink how their campuses operate and

submit recommendations for meeting the required budget reductions. In addition to the mandate to follow USGS Budget Principles, the four assumptions driving the recommendations are:

- a) The level of state support is rapidly decreasing. ~~2006~~ 2006-07 year is the first time that we will not get full formula funding.
- b)

3) Staff Development Committee A Chair has not yet been elected. Committee is

- d) Planning Details were discussed: Beth Giddens will ~~call~~ ^{contact} vendors with the new date. Rebecca Taylor will contact the DJ. Moody will be contacted about the dunking booth. David Bennett will check on prices for ~~chicken~~ ^{chicken} halves. H&L will donate one case ~~of~~ ^{of} chicken (we will probably need five cases total).
- e) Shawn Gibbons moved that COSA meet again regarding Staff Appreciation Day on September 28th at 8:30 a.m. Trisha Taylor seconded. Motion carried.
- f) Josie Stone submitted her resignation as Chair