

Staff Advisory Committee Meeting
February 5, 2008
11:30am – 1:30pm – Dining Rooms 8&9

Present: Doreen Burgers, Ruth Crane, Ron Dunleavy, Pam DeSimone, Heather Dominey, Jeff Fitton, Deborah Healey, Walter Hunter, Angel Hilliard, Karen Leonard (Chair), Nancy Magers, Lori Maguire, Beth Murphy, Sarah Peri, Lisa Sheehan, Lea Snyder, Kristen Soule, Alfred Tente, Amy Umstadter, Courtney Wuethrich

Toni Tinberg attended in place of Joe Sarno

Absent: Chris O'Neil, Maritza Marti, Joe Sarno, Steve Tompkins

Announcements

Karen welcomed SAC members and guest presenter, Heather Emerick from Human Resources. She also informed the group that Toni Tinberg from Human Resources was sitting in for Joe Sarno. Karen thanked all BEAR Day volunteers.

Karen mentioned that Facilities Management is seeking nominations for the Gaspar-Arzoomanian Outstanding Union Employee Award. Facilities is also hosting a presentation about new campus construction on Thursday, 2/7, in the Petteruti Lounge.

Subcommittee Reports

Lea Snyder – Outreach & Communications Subcommittee

Currently, 422 staff members responded to the survey regarding the Winter Break closing. O&C compiled the results, thanks to Sara and Heather, and is now working on writing a letter to President Simmons. O&C is also working on profiling staff members and will ask for nominations over spring break. O&C also fixed all broken links on the SAC website and is working with SPS to keep the online application page up to date.

Pam DeSimone – Staff Participation Subcommittee

The SPS committee met last week; they have chosen 2 staff representatives and one alternate for the Brown University Community Council. SPS received 9 applications for the University Resources Committee (URC) and chose 3 finalists. The URC interviews will be held next week.

Jeff Fitton – Events Subcommittee

Events did not meet last week. They have secured Geoff Greene to play the organ in Sayles Hall for the SAC concert in Sayles Hall. Events will also contact John Colarusso and Gary Martins to begin planning the Rebuilding Together event in April.

Guest Presenter – Heather Emerick, Human Resources

Heather gave an overview of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator – the language that allows us to talk about observable differences in human behavior. She shared how the Indicator is used in the Center for Staff Learning and Professional Development to train individuals, work teams and departments at Brown.

Advisor's Report

Walter discussed the transition plan for SAC in the upcoming months. He also led a discussion about BEAR Day on February 1st. Angel recorded the feedback from SAC members which will be used in planning the '09 program.

Staff Concerns

Lea mentioned that staff members were polled at the Benefits Fair regarding pet insurance and she wondered what the status was. Karen will follow up with Ibrahim Essa in the Benefits Office.

CIS staff wanted to raise the issue of technology training not being covered under the Employee Education Program. Walter suggested having Michele Wise from the Benefits Office write a memo to SAC members to clarify this along with the distance learning issue.

Lisa raised the question of where employees will park once construction begins on the new fitness center. Walter recommended contacting Beth Gentry who is in charge of the Transportation Office. This led to a discussion of why the satellite fitness centers are closed to staff. Walter said that the centers are open only to students because students will feel more comfortable exercising with just their peers.

There was also a discussion about limited seating in the Ivy Room because students are using now more than in years past. Ruth mentioned that this topic was brought up previously and is explained on SAC's website (see below): **The Ivy Room seems very crowded these days ... with students!** Dining Services acknowledges that the popularity of the Ivy Room seems to have increased this year. Many staff members are unaware that, with the exception of the Faculty Club, all Dining Service's operations are open to the entire Brown Community. Below are some reasons for the increase in students who are choosing to eat at the Ivy Room:

- 1) Brown has its highest rate of meal plan participation in many years, so there are more students eating more meals in all of dining operations. Additionally, some students have selected one of four new meal plans which have a higher number of points associated with them than the traditional plans do.
- 2) The Ivy Room lost about 25 seats when the passenger elevator was installed the summer of 2006. Dining Services is looking at seating plans that would try to return at least 15 of those lost seats, based on fire code capacities.

Dining Services has taken the following steps to help the traffic and seating issues that have surfaced: Reviewed the setup and staffing of the deli and hot food service areas to increase efficiency and reduce the waiting time in-line; Reviewed menu options on the hot-service line both in the Ivy Room and MDR to help balance traffic; Opened the Chancellor's Dining Room Annex (off of the Main Dining Room) for overflow seating during lunch, when available.

Walter suggested raising the concerns about the ivy Room and the satellite fitness centers in an email to Russell Carey, Interim VP-Campus Life & Student Services.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm