Attendance: Liisa Laine, co-chair; Grace Young, co-chair; Sarah Aneyci; Sarah Brown; Geeta Chougule; Laura Dobler; Daisy Ferreira; Catherine Hanni; Annemarie Kennedy; Michael Leitao; Derek Lisi; Kristine Newson; Abigail Peterson; Laura Pleasant; Jessica Pontarelli; Jennifer Quiroz; Felicia Raton; Barbara Simoneau; Maria Sokolova; Beth Travers; Ray Windsor; Yi Vizard

Absent: Dawn Cummings; Tara Greenwood; Joel Hernandez; Marguerite Joutz

1. Acceptance of meeting minutes: April 23, 2019

There were no objections to the minutes and they were accepted by all present members.

2. 6/11 Staff Development Day SAC Event Update

There will be a town hall from 9-9:45 a.m. on Staff Development Day (SDD). Vice President of Institutional Equity and Diversity Shontay Delalue will present an overview of the 2019 staff climate survey in addition to updates on the progress made from department DIAPs, plus have time for questions and answers before the 10 a.m. SDD program start.

There are about 60 programs/sessions to choose from for Staff Development Day, including “Learning to Lead” with SAC members Liisa, Mike, Jess and Laura on the panel moderated by SAC member Felicia. They’ll share the skills they learned from campus-wide committees and share leadership roles at Brown.

SAC is in the process of finalizing a coffee cart for staff, with Del’s Lemonade as a backup if that falls through. The beverage truck would be available from 1-4 p.m. on the main green for staff going to and from different Staff Development Day programs. There will also be a live band (Brown faculty’s Dirty Filthy Basement Band) performing at lunch. SAC members were asked to sign up for a shift on SDD for handing out raffle tickets, etc.

As for raffles, we have some items and may try to give a prize to a staff member with the best submission for a Wall of Fame idea.
Q: When are staff allowed to register for SDD? Angel will start promoting the event soon but HR is still finalizing programs in the next couple of weeks, so probably the end of May.

The SAC newsletter will request submissions for the Wall of Fame, and all SAC members were asked to submit an idea.

As for the PawSox fundraiser, Sarah Aneyci will find out how many tickets have sold.

For the book drive, Facilities has collected a ton! Anyone hosting a site is asked to update the Google spreadsheet so SAC has an idea of the total.

The Meet and Mingle volleyball event will be held on 6/6: is anything else needed? Maria needs two volleyballs and Athletics would not lend them for the event. Catherine Hanni will ask someone else at Brown.

Staff potluck on 6/24 at South Street Landing: the flyer looks great and this is all set. No one has signed up yet but it will be submitted to Today@Brown by Barbara Simoneau as a save the date. Maria Sokolova will submit a Today@Brown request for the volleyball event as well and will keep a backup date in mind in case of inclement weather. Catherine will contact SAO to check if the PawSox flyer can be uploaded to all of the digital screens.

3. SAC Newsletter Updates

Mike has a lot of submissions for this week, including the PawSox, potluck, volleyball, book drive reminder, and more. Mike needs items by the second week of the month.

Q: Should we say something about the summer reading coming soon? A: Yes, just put a basic save the date (coming soon). This will be held August 16 at the Faculty Club - but the book hasn’t been chosen yet. SAC will have to book rooms at Paige-Robinson for the breakout rooms.

4. Staff Concerns/Executive Session

Laura Dobler was intrigued about the job audit discussed at the last SAC meeting, but it wasn’t clear what would happen if the audit came back stating the employee should be paid more, but the department doesn’t have the funds to pay more money. How does that get resolved? Can we follow up with Amanda Bailey?

Sarah Brown asked about supports in place for staff who took on more work but aren’t getting paid. How can they advocate for themselves if they have taken on more responsibility, believe in the mission, but aren’t being recognized? If the audit has been declined, what does that conversation look like with the supervisor - do staff who are spread thin continue doing work that’s not in their job description or stop doing the work?
Mike Leitao informed SAC of the distressing news that the parking officers and staff in the Transportation Department are getting brutalized by Brown staff. They’re just doing their jobs and staff members have been abusive and aggressive after getting tickets (even if the tickets were issued by the City of Providence rather than Brown). Transportation staff have had to call DPS four times in the last three weeks because of screaming, name-calling, abusive staff members. Catherine wondered if Brown will consider lowering the fees. Kristine Newson wondered if this is related to stress from all the construction projects happening around Brown and noted a recent incident of experiencing verbal abuse from a worker in a Brown lot. Liisa Lane suggested that complaints should be made via service response if staff encounter workers on Brown projects who are aggressive about taking up parking. Vendors sign a contract that states what to do concerning parking. If they are taking up spots in a Brown lot and preventing Brown staff from using them, staff should call Transportation so they can investigate who is taking up the spaces and why.

The council held an executive session for the remainder of the meeting.

The next SAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at Rhode Island Hall, Room 108. Associate Provost for Academic Space Leah Vanwey will talk about gender-neutral restrooms.