Staff Senate News

June 2014

Nominations for Employee of the 2nd Quarter Close June 13

Nominations for the UW Staff Employee of the 2nd Quarter close this Friday, June 13. The award recognizes deserving staff members for their efforts toward excellence in the workplace. Winners receive a variety of prizes and qualify for the Employee of the Year award.

Nomination forms and instructions can be found on the Staff Senate website.

Staff Senate Election Results

UW Staff Senate recently held elections for terms beginning in 2014, and is pleased to recognize the following new and returning senators.

Division of Academic Affairs:
- Susan Schulz, Library/COE reference
- Rachel Stevens, Management and Marketing
- Jan O’Dell, Botany
- Lou Ann Montgomery, UW Family Medicine Residency Program-Cheyenne

Division of Administration:
- Kristin Blevins, Transit and Parking
- Manuel Gallegos, Custodial Services
- Gary Browning, Carpentry Shop
- Melissa Lawrence, Procurement Services
- Arron Sullivent, Real Estate Operations
- Harley Chamberlain, Custodial Services
- Heather Earl, Facilities Engineering

Division of Research and Economic Development:
- Elizabeth Traver, EPSCoR-IDEA

Division of Student Affairs:
- Cecilia Schlup, Student Health Services
- Leland Schroyer, Residence Life and Dining Services
- Christopher Saunders, Residence Life and Dining Services

UW Staff Senate Officers for the 2014-2015 year are:
- Rachel Stevens, President
- Arron Sullivent, Vice President
- Megan Monahan, Secretary
- Kathy Kirkaldie, Parliamentarian
- Beverly Bell, Member-At-Large

Dates to Remember

June 11, 2014
Summer STEP applications due

6/11 Meeting Agenda

I. Roll call
II. Approve May minutes
III. Approve June agenda
IV. Administration reports
   A. Div. of Admin.
   B. Human Resources
V. Guests and Special Programs
   A. update
VI. Officer Reports
VII. Old Business
   A. Resolution #206, 2nd reading
      “Additional Vacation”
VIII. New Business
   A. Resolution #207, 1st reading
      “Timely Input From Advisory Boards Before Policy Implementation”
IX. Liaison Reports
IX. Committee Reports
XI. Open forum

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Congratulations to Beth Buskirk, Employee of the 1st Quarter!

Message from Outgoing President Jim Logue

As my term as Staff Senate President wraps up, I am gratified by the works of the Senate over the past year. It was an interesting year to be sure, but as staff normally do, the Senate went about the business of keeping UW rolling along.

If you judge the body by the volume of legislation we appear lackadaisical. I contend, however, that the works of the Senate lie within our committees and much progress has been made. We are proud sponsors of the Employee of the Quarter award as well as all the other awards presented at the Staff Recognition Day event. Our holiday food drive was another success – we were able to assist eleven families this December with the generous donations we received from the UW community. We also sent 40 pounds of treats to our National Guard unit in Bahrain as part of the effort. I am heartened to see this level of support!

The Senate has been active in monitoring and advocating the staff viewpoint in regards to compensation and benefits. We are pleased with the establishment of the Employee Assistance Program and have voiced concern to all who will listen regarding salaries and performance assessments. We are preparing legislation to solidify the Senate’s advisory role to the University President and have passed a resolution to investigate salary step increases for employee achievements in education, certifications, licensure and longevity. Our Staff Relations Committee is hard at work on other matters of compensation, benefits, and employment practices – stay tuned!

The rest of our standing committees keep the Senate running and provide valuable service to the University. Now that the dust is settling in Old Main, I feel satisfied that the Senate has established a more open and honest line of communication with the administration and that can only benefit staff and the University as a whole.

Please consider serving on the Senate – I have found it to be an excellent means to contribute to the welfare of the staff and the University in general. As the first off-campus president, it was a special honor to be selected to represent staff to Old Main and the Board of Trustees and I hope I did so well. Best of luck to President-Elect Rachel Stevens and the incoming senators this July!

Ask a Question: Jury/Legal Duty

Got a question of about the University of Wyoming or your employment here? Ask away at: staffsen@uwyo.edu.

QUESTION: If I am called in for jury duty, is this leave time covered by UW? If so, what type of leave is it and how should it be reported?

ANSWER: According to Presidential Directive 4-2004-2, Leave With Pay, jury or legal duty are considered to be a one type of Non-Emergency Leave with Pay: “Staff employees are entitled to a leave of absence with pay when required to perform jury duty, when subpoenaed as a witness or when summoned to give expert testimony.”

Other forms of Non-Emergency Leave with Pay include:
• Leave taken to vote and
• Work-related leave such as meetings, institutes, professional examination, and other activities directly related to an employees’ work.

The most common UW time report includes a drop-down menu with codes for leave types taken; Legal Duty (coded LEGAL) is among the selections possible.

Points to Ponder: Increases to Retirement Contributions Begin July 1, 2014

With the new fiscal year comes increases, mandated by the Wyoming State Legislature, in both the employee and employer contributions to public employee pension plans.

According to the WRS Spring 2014 newsletter (see Table A. Public Employee Pension Plan – Impact of HEA 11 (House Bill 46)), beginning this July 1, employees will begin contributing an additional 0.375% in earnings to their retirement accounts, while employers (including UW) will begin contributing an additional 0.875%.

The employee contribution level is projected to increase again in July 2016 by 0.25%, and the following July by another 0.375%, for a total 1% increase over three years.

The employer contribution is projected to increase by another 0.75% next year, and then, as employee contributions increase, will fall to a 1.0% total increase by 2017.

Did You Know: Wyoming Conservation Corps and Glass Recycling

Founded in 2006 and housed in the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) continues the legacy of the 1930’s Civilian Conservation Corps and the 1970’s Youth Conservation Corps. Like those conservation corps that came before it, WCC carries out the highest caliber of service for Wyoming’s public lands.

WCC works in partnerships with several entities in Wyoming, including agencies and industry companies working on public lands in the State, to advance the understanding and resolution of complex environmental and natural resource challenges by inspiring young adults to become stewards of our natural resources through leadership training and service learning to benefit lands in Wyoming.

You can learn more about WCC and current projects here.

WCC members have recycled nearly eight tons of glass since launching a glass recycling program earlier this spring. WCC’s program was initiated after ARK Regional Services discontinued recycling glass, leaving Laramie without a glass recycling program. The glass recycling program is free, but donations are accepted and have provided sufficient funds to cover the cost of hauling the recycled glass to Loveland, CO.

This summer, WCC encourages Laramie residents to collect glass for recycling. WCC personnel will collect glass at the Wal-Mart Parking lot on the following days:
• Thursday, June 19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
• Friday, June 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Thursday, July 17, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
• Friday, July 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Thursday, Aug. 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Friday, Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.