

Minutes of the Meeting of UWG Staff Advisory Council
Open Forum- All Staff Meeting
TLC 1305
November 28, 2012

1. Call to Order & Welcome – Erin Brannon

2. Introduction of SAC Officers & Representatives - Erin Brannon

Erin Brannon, Chair

Ashley Lewis, Vice Chair

Kari Cunningham, Treasurer

Denice King, Secretary

SAC Representatives introduced themselves and advised which areas they represent. Erin reminded the group all the representatives and their areas are available on the SAC website:

<http://www.westga.edu/sac/index.php>

3. Financial Update – VP for Business & Finance, Jim Sutherland

Mr. Sutherland gave an overview of current financial issues. Financially, UWG is sound, and we have taken the necessary precautions to prepare us for potential (likely) budget cuts in the future. However, he explained the State Legislature is not expected to be giving a merit pay raise again this coming year. This applies all throughout the state of Georgia.

Mr. Sutherland also discussed the Mercer Study. The last study was done four years ago to determine if UWG was less competitive than other industry in our region. If we are lower than the market now, we will again have to find the resources internally to bring us back up to a competitive rate. The initial report from Mercer is expected mid-January.

Mr. Sutherland then answered questions covering the following topics:

- Mr. Sutherland clarified how we can be putting up new buildings instead of giving pay raises. Construction funding comes from taxes, fees, and/or bond sales that are specifically allotted for those building projects. That money cannot be used for salaries.
- Possibility of working during the forced holiday vacation days? Employee supervisor and division VP must approve the work to be done, and HR must be notified in advance.
- Possible tax increase that could affect employees' tax situations? HR/Payroll will notify the campus as soon as any changes are to occur in employee pay.
- TRS percent rate going up to cover all the anticipated benefits for participants.

4. UWG Toy Drive – Ashley Lewis

Ashley gave an update on the progress for the UWG Toy Drive. The event will happen on Friday, Nov 7th. Donations of an unwrapped new toy should be brought to the Townsend Center between 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Ashley notified the group that all older children from Carroll County Division of Family and Children Services have been adopted already.

5. Questions/Concerns/Rumors – Erin Brannon

An update on Dr. Sethna's retirement was requested. Parker Executive Recruitment Firm and the Presidential Search Committee are in the process of heavily recruiting qualified candidates. On-campus interviews could happen as early as February or March.

Question asked whether Tuition Assistance program also pays for dependents. VP Sutherland advised it does not.

Concerns regarding parking were raised.

- Special parking permits (15 minutes) need to be requested by department heads and approved by Deans/VPs.
- Suggestion made to allow all employees to park anywhere for 15 minutes to handle work related errands on campus.
- Mark Reeves, Asst. VP of Auxiliary Services, will come to individual departments to discuss parking issues/suggestions.

6. Adjournment – Erin Brannon

Ms. Brannon adjourned meeting at 4:15 pm.