Staff Council: Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 9:00am

Chair’s Room/Zoom

Attendees: T. Scola, K. Hollan, M. Hamilton, C. Keller, K. Marengo, S. Miles, D. Dubois, R. Gardner, A. Curran, N. Caligiuri, A. Boertjens, N. Luiz, P. Howe, A. LeSane, L. Baghsarian, W. Battelle

Guest Attendees: G. Wang, WPI President; K. Siegel, Associate VP & Chief of Staff

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01am.
2. Meeting minutes from 9/7/2023 were approved.
3. Chair Report:
   1. General reminder: please make sure to review the meeting minutes prior to next meeting.
   2. Chair Scola will be meeting with VP Lauren Turner 1x/month to bring Staff Council issues to her attention. These issues will be discussed internally first and consensus will be reached before sharing them with Lauren.
4. Staff Council has a vacancy due to Oscar Chavez leaving his position at WPI. This brought up the need for an amendment to our bylaws to address how to replace appointed seats on Staff Council. It was agreed by the Staff Council to pull the replacement from our original appointed seat votes. Chair Scola will reach out to this person to offer the seat.
5. Sub-committee Share Outs:
   1. Elections – setting up a meeting to connect with the full subcommittee next week
   2. Community Engagement – working on scheduling a meeting with the full subcommittee next week
   3. Events & Planning – setting up a meeting to connect with the full subcommittee next week
   4. Communications/PR – working with marketing to collect new members’ bios for publication
   5. A template is being developed to keep Chair apprised of sub-committee activity at a more detailed level than full Council share outs.
   6. Staff Climate Survey – Mike Hamilton is joining to replace Amy Curran as Staff Council representative
6. President Grace Wang – Provost Search Listening Session
   1. President Wang asked for Staff Council members’ input on what characteristics should be included and considered during the search for the new Provost. Kyle Siegel took note of suggestions and comments.
   2. President Wang also requested to attend a future Staff Council meeting to learn more about Staff Council initiatives and goals.
7. Feedback Form Responses
   1. Staff Council has received over 60 responses following the communication about compensation from T&I. The full council reviewed a compilation of the feedback highlighting the recurrent themes.
   2. Due to the number of responses, it was decided to hold a special ad-hoc meeting next week to discuss the data in detail and formulate a strategy to advocate effectively for concerned staff.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 10:32am.