



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

## STAFF COUNCIL

#

**Thursday, September 20, 2018**  
**UC 208 at 10:00am**

### I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Leslie Lindsey at 10:00

### II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the last meeting have not posted so they could not be approved.

### III. Guest Speaker – Dr. Nicklow

#### **Enrollment**

- Currently at 8,151; 1,000 freshman
- 2 ½% increase (both undergraduate and graduate saw an increase) – largest increase in 9 years
- Both in-state and out-of-state saw an increase
- 24% increase in applications for this year
- Highest average GPA and ACT scores in several years
- Retention percentage went up about 9 points to 71.2% or approximately a 14% increase from last year
- Number of credit hours and FTE are up

#### **Raises**

- Even though didn't make the goal of 8,500 enrollment this fall, looking for a way to give raises this year
- Plan will need to be approved at the next Board meeting – next meeting is October 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **Campus Physical Improvements**

- Seal coating was paid for via a donation – re-pavement is expensive so went with the lower cost of coating
- R&T Foundation donation paid for such items as new banners, sign, benches etc.
- Looking into project for quad improvements
- In arbitration with FEMA for the removal of Bienville Hall

#### **Legislative Session**

- After several special sessions, funding for education stayed at same amount as last year
- UNO's budget was cut by one million due to changes in the funding formula – will look into changing the formula to better reflect how each school is different and should have different performance measures

### **Fund Raising**

- Last year raised \$5 million, this year's goal is \$7 million
- Focus was on funds for scholarships but did get funds for the power washing, handful of lab renovations, some classroom improvements
- *Hall of Distinction* – located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Library; ribbon cutting is 9/20/18

### **Questions from audience**

- Quality of the building interiors negates the positive work done on external improvements – what is being done to address?
  - With limited funds, decided that work on exterior would have a greater positive effect (first impression of visitors)
  - Currently working on some lab and classroom improvements, will do more as funds become available
- Can something be done to the holes in the gravel parking lot of the Library?
  - Dr. Lassen will request the holes to be filled with the understanding that this is a temporary fix
  - Will work on receiving capital outlay funds from the State for a permanent fix to the lot (as well as the Engineering gravel lot)
- How will LSU's changes in their admission standards affect UNO?
  - Doesn't believe the change will negatively impact UNO – all schools are allowed a certain number of exceptions to admission standards
  - Believes LSU is really admitting these students to within their exception allowance
- What goal can the staff assist with?
  - Long-term goals of 12,000 students, double research efforts, and increase partnerships
  - This year goals of increase retention rates and hire faculty in strategic areas
  - Continue to assist students
  - Talk about UNO in social circles (keep it positive)
- What can be done to alleviate financial burden for students? On top of book costs, there are extra fees for online access codes, etc.
  - Bookstore offers a rental option for books (would still need to pay extra fee for online access code)
  - Other options for courses books will be looked into
  - Library has textbook assistance
- What is the procedure to bring attention to an issue?

- Facility related issues – contact Dr. Lassen or Warren Davis (Warren is leaving UNO soon and administration is working on a solution to cover his departure)
- Academic issues – contact the Provost office
- Can always email or stop by his office for any issue

#### IV. Executive Committee Reports

##### a. President - Kassie Thibodeaux

- Nothing

##### b. Vice-President - Leslie Lindsey

- Nothing

##### c. Treasurer - Carol Mitton

- Credit Union balance – \$5.42
- Foundation spending balance – \$3,401.87
- Foundation principal balance – \$10,243.19
- General fund – need to amount for year

##### d. Recording Secretary – vacant

- Working on posting last month's meeting minutes
- Made plea for someone to volunteer to fill the vacancy – let one of the officers know if you are interested

##### e. Corresponding Secretary – vacant

- Nothing
- Made plea for someone to volunteer to fill the vacancy– let one of the officers know if you are interested

#### V. Committee Reports

##### a. Membership/Elections Committee

- Nothing

##### b. Staff Concerns Committee

1. Suggestion to highlight the employee of the month (EOM)
  - a. Talked to Marketing and HR and will now include the EOM in the monthly newsletter
2. Survey on equal pay (between men & women)
  - a. Faculty survey has been completed and finalized
  - b. Staff survey has been started but has not been finalized; once it is done, the results will be forwarded to the Staff Council President
3. T-shirts for supervisors to purchase for employees (says something link “my boss thinks I am awesome”)

- a. LeeAnn Sipe spearheaded this in the past; she is not available now but will follow-up when she returns
- c. Events Committee
  - Nothing
- d. Awards Committee
  - Nothing
  
- VI. New Business – N/A
  - Athletics – Megan Steinmetz
    - Good year for sports – both men & women basketball teams made it to the Southland Conference; baseball also made it to the Southland Conference
    - Made improvements to weight room and study room in HPHC building
    - Encourage athletes to participate in community service projects
    - Last year the average GPA for student athletes was 3.5
    - Basketball season tickets - \$100 for faculty/staff & \$125 for general public; can do payroll deduction
  
- VII. Old Business – sign-up for Committees
  - Made plea to be on a committee - do not need to be a Counselor to be on a committee
  
- VIII. Next Meeting – Thursday, October 18, 2018; UC 208 at 10AM
  
- IX. Adjourn
  - Adjournment at 10:45 am.