

FINAL

UI Staff Council Executive Committee
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
2:30-4:30 pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Mihaela Bojin, Genevieve Johnson, Heather Mineart, Theodore Potter, Glenda Smith, Mike Weaver, and Kevin Zihlman

Absent: Teri Schnelle, Brenda Van Dee

Administrative Liaisons: Marla Rosenblum

Guests: Em Domingues

Welcome, Attendance, Approval of UISC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes:

- February 3, 2020- UISC Executive Committee Meeting – Approved with minor edits.

Bylaws Amendment on Committee Chair Selection Proposal – Em Domingues, Bylaws Committee Chair.

- Em brought an updated version of the recommendation regarding the Committee Chair Selection Proposal.
- The Committee discussed concerns with the new language, including the status of potential co-chairs, whether a chair/co-chair could be appointed in a timely manner to accomplish committee business, and the level of continuity between the work of the previous committee and the new committee.
- Em brought up a possible alternative that would have the Executive Committee designate the chairs. The Executive Committee was not prepared to accept that proposal.
- Another idea is to have each committee elect a co-chair who is interested in becoming Chair the next year. Each year the Executive Committee would appoint committee chairs who had been co-chairs the previous Council year. In the event a previous co-chair is unable or unwilling to become Chair, the Executive committee would appoint a Chair for that year. SCEC was more amenable to this idea.
- Em will take these ideas back to the Bylaws Committee for further consideration and discussion.

Coke Funds Next Steps for 2021 Fund (usage ideas), Office Budget, DEI Award – Brenda Van Dee, Budget Officer (excused); Marla presented

- Awards Committee revised proposal for 2 awards for \$500 each was considered; Heather moved and Genevieve seconded to approve this modified proposal; motion approved by all present.
- Regarding the remaining Coke money...
 - SCEC felt that a hybrid approach to spending would be best – spend some in this budget year, and allow for carry-over of a significant amount, particularly given that next year’s allocation is uncertain (and there will likely be pent up demand).
 - Regarding how to spend money in the current budget year – SCEC agreed that some sort of one-time funding be allocated to local Staff Councils and Diversity Councils. The University Relations Committee (for local Staff Councils) and DEI Committee (for Diversity Councils) were asked to validate exactly how many councils exist and their names and leaders. Kevin moved and Mihaela seconded the motion to approve the concept of offering up to \$500 to the councils identified by University Relations and the DEI Committee. The motion was approved by all present. Final offers of funds can be made based on the report back to SCEC.

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- Short discussion about how to handle redundant requests, for example CLAS Staff Council already asks for and is allocated funds annually. Should they be allocated additional funds under this proposal? Most SCEC members were not in favor of allocating additional funds.
- Short discussion about how funds could be distributed to the groups; more research is necessary.
- Office budget – \$10,600 is allocated each year; with what is already spent to date and projections for the rest of the year, that budget will still have up to \$5,000. Consensus was to consider how it might be spent at the next **SCEC** meeting; one suggestion is to purchase more SC swag.

President's Remarks – Heather Mineart, Staff Council President

- Presidential Search – shared governance leaders were asked to provide two questions for finalists.
- UI Strategic Plan – Staff Council will have a representative in the new strategic planning process. An IowaNow article explains the new plan and structure: <https://now.uiowa.edu/2021/02/work-beginning-ui-strategic-plan-2022-2027>.
- Budget Review Board meeting overview – State outlook and federal COVID relief; Kevin and Mike presented the Tuition Assistance Program proposal – some positive support from Deans but several didn't know about this program; SCEC would like to be able to show the need and use of tuition by staff, and ultimately how tuition assistance for staff benefits UI. Some SCEC members suggest that tuition assistance become a staff fringe benefit, as at some peer institutions.

Free Speech Policy updates – Heather

- Consolidate four policies into one; a few small changes relate to staff.

Follow-up discussion on TIAA Farmland investment practices – Heather

- Faculty Senate meeting March 9th to hear a presentation from representatives of TIAA and its partners
- Faculty Senate is asking SCEC to sign onto a statement asking TIAA to divest itself of questionable land investments around the world.
- Some SCEC members expressed support of the concept but are reluctant to sign onto this specific statement.
- A question was raised as to whether FRIC has looked into this issue and if so, perhaps SCEC would defer to FRIC's input.

Future of Work Committees – deferred to next month

Councilor Letters of Support – scope and feasibility – Heather

- SCEC discussed a request from a councilor for a letter of support that could be sent to the person's supervisor so that it could be considered as part of performance. There is no policy that provides for such a letter.
- At present, all exiting councilors receive a letter of appreciation and a certificate of service from Staff Council.
- The Committee tabled this matter for further consideration.

SCEC subcommittee read-outs – deferred to next month

- Policies and Procedures
- Guidelines and Principles
- Org Rep Feedback/Relationships

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Feedback from Staff – Next Steps - Emails

- UI Post-Doctoral Association (UIPDA) contacted the UI shared governance leaders to ask for assistance in becoming a shared governance partner; the shared governance leaders discussed how they might assist them. The leaders requested more information.
- A student asked whether there were plans for all faculty and staff who have direct contact with students be vaccinated. HM responded to student that there are no such plans.
- Two additional questions were addressed to the senders by Heather.

March Staff Council Meeting Agenda

- The agenda was approved with the caveat that Bylaws has only one item instead of two.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation.

Next meeting: April 7, 2021 2:30-4:30 pm, Online via Zoom