

**Staff Association Area Reps Meeting  
Minutes of April 11, 2013**

**Present**

Annette Dietrich  
Barb Blundon  
Darlene Ryan  
Carrie Lyn Hunting  
Luanne McGinley  
Ray Butterworth

Robyn Landers  
Theresa Dam  
Priscila Carrara  
Carlos Mendes  
Gail Spencer  
Lawrence Folland

Melissa Holst  
Trevor Grove

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**1. Approval of Agenda**

No changes.

**2. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2013 Area Reps Meeting**

Accepted as published.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**4. Winterfest discussion**

Some comments received: some people said they were unaware of it but perhaps that's because they're not UWSA members. Some people feel it is for families, not for singles, so they don't go. (Since we have various other events that are not family-oriented, that's okay.) Some with young children are quite favourable.

**5. Staff Engagement Survey**

This has been talked about for a long time. Have now approved a contract with a UW-related organization to analyze survey results. Almost finished writing the survey. The consultants recommend a trial run to test survey operation. Carlos Mendes asked each UWSA rep to nominate a relatively new and relatively long-time employee to help with the test. Send names within a week or so. Actual survey expected to take place in about three weeks.

**6. Staff Lifecycle project**

Carlos is working closely with Bruce Mitchell. Receiving good quality responses so far. Will report on this in the near future.

**7. Hiring of Equity Director**

Job description and advertisement are almost ready to go. Contact Gail Spencer with any comments or questions.

**8. UWSA support of Staff Conference**

UWSA supports the staff conference by contributing ~\$50K from staff excellence fund, typically to help cover cost of the guest speakers. Do we feel this was good value this time? Any need for higher quality speakers at higher prices?

Comments were generally favourable about the speakers and the theme. Some concern was expressed about seating density in Humanities Theatre (HT), and that registration for keynotes fills up, so people may abandon the entire conference if they are too late to register for the

keynotes. Could we webcast the keynote talks? The speakers might require significantly higher fees for that. Closed-circuit simulcast (not on internet) to other rooms? Providing access to people who have physical difficulties with access to HT is important too.

Congestion was severe around snack tables, and supplies seemed inadequate. Changing the directional flow of the snack tables caused confusion as some people followed the previous direction.

Some staff/departments were unable to attend due to conflicting events. To what extent should departments refrain from booking other meetings etc. on conference days?

#### **10. Open discussion**

Question arose about coordination of benefits if both spouses work on campus. This is already in place. Contact your benefits coordinator in HR for details.

A question was asked about parking plans. The campus master plan includes some multilevel parking structures. Chad Bredin is the staff representative on the parking committee; bring concerns to him. Interest was expressed in having better bicycle parking facilities.

A faculty member who is interested in helping staff with career development cannot see staff job postings. Carlos will seek clarification from Kenton Needham about job posting rules.

#### **11. Reminder re next lunch with UWSA**

Watch for the announcement.

Chair: Carlos Mendes

Minutes: RBL