

Exempt Employees Advisory Committee
-Minutes-
March 29, 2007

Committee members present:

Warner Collier	Karen Hooten
Blandina Costley	Shaun Meredith
Sheila Cudd	Kevin Murphy
Melinda Eddleman (recorder)	
Jeff Getchell	

Committee members absent: Dr. Leonard Rivera

Guest attendees: Jay Knioum

- The meeting convened at 12:20 p.m. in the Center for Economic Development at the DMC Annex.
- Committee members approved the minutes for the Feb. 15, 2007 meeting but to include the noted changes on Page 2 to the second and last bullets of information on that page. Shaun Meredith gave the first motion with Warner Collier seconding.
- Public Comments: none
- The committee discussed updating the EEAC Web pages on the College's site. Kevin Murphy noted that he would contact Laura Montemayor about getting access to directly upload information to the page, specifically the minutes. He asked that committee members currently refer to MyDMC to access files internally. Melinda Eddleman said she would post the past minutes to MyDMC.
- The committee discussed the replacement of an EEAC member who resigned after the February meeting. Committee members reviewed and discussed the policy during the last meeting and also posted their input on MyDMC after that meeting. Blandina Costley from the Office of Development/Foundation had the next highest votes from the general election and was asked to join the committee as per policy. She agreed to accept the position. Melinda Eddleman motioned to accept Ms. Costley's joining the committee and Shaun Meredith seconded the motion. The EEAC voted unanimously to accept Blandina Costley to the committee.
- Kevin Murphy passed out notes from the Budget Committee meeting. Property taxes are expected to increase by 5 percent this next year. The issue of proportionality funding for insurance is a dead issue for now and was not included in any bills. Currently, the state pays 100% of benefits budget, but the governor wanted to drop that percentage to the same percentage of state funding that institutions get for instructional costs. The committee also discussed the issue of full-formula funding as it relates to being one of the Board of Regents' legislative priorities.

- The EEAC noted that departments are currently working on budgets for the next fiscal year. Departments will be considering capital equipment costs, salaries, etc. Salary adjustments will impact exempt employees. The Faculty Council and other groups have indicated they will ask for a 3.2 percent increase in salaries. The EEAC discussed the Consumer Price Index using the information provided by Warner Collier. Using that data, the committee decided to ask the Board of Regents for the same percentage increase (3.2 percent) as the Faculty Council. It was noted that faculty usually ask for a base salary increase plus a cost of living increase.

- The EEAC explored the structure of the committee upon reviewing the positions filled by the Nonexempt Employee Advisory Committee. The NEAC is very diverse and the largest group on campus. Their committee handles its representation by subcategories based on clerical and maintenance representation on each campus. Members of the EEAC felt that exempt employees who were interested in running for the committee and had the time to serve submitted their names for the election.

- The EEAC discussed the survey instrument, Survey Monkey, which is free. It was noted that IT has a survey instrument as well. The committee discussed how use of a survey could help the EEAC determine what exempt employees' needs are and how the committee could best serve them after getting their input. Jeff Getchell suggested that the EEAC also hold a meeting similar to a town hall meeting once a year. The EEAC could have campus representatives (vice presidents/president) come in and cover/discuss with exempt employees the issues affecting the College, its employees and the students. They could also cover where the institution will go in the future. The EEAC has a budget and could provide refreshments during the meeting. Such meetings would also give the EEAC more opportunities to raise its profile on campus. Kevin Murphy asked if anyone was willing to chair a subcommittee to initiate the first town hall meeting and for EEAC members to put ideas on MyDMC about what that meeting would cover. Everyone agreed that Fall Convocation would not be the best time to hold a meeting. It was suggested that the first meeting might take place during the summer since most exempt employees are on campus year-round.

- Kevin Murphy asked if anyone knew who the May commencement speaker is. Currently, the speaker has not been determined, yet.

- Jeff Getchell noted that during the President's Staff Meeting there was nothing of significance discussed. He does have supplemental handouts that EEAC members can request, and he will post his notes for the meeting on MyDMC.

- Kevin Murphy asked committee members to check MyDMC frequently. Melinda Eddleman sent the approved EEAC letterhead to him, and he will move it to MyDMC.

- Melinda Eddleman said she would post the minutes on MyDMC. Kevin Murphy noted that his goal was to have all exempt employees view committee information in the EEAC group on MyDMC.

- The next meeting will be held April 12 at noon.

- The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.