

Staff Advisory Committee
May 18, 2015, 9 a.m.

Present: Rebecca Asher, Kevin Edwards (chair), Jerry Keeton, Tina Martin, Debbie Mayberry, Randal McCloud, Valerie Nash, Kathy Reynolds and Cheryl Sullivan

Other attendees: Evelyn Chambers, President Phil Oldham, Terri Taylor and Kevin Tucker

President's Comments

President Oldham noted that TTU graduated 1300 students at spring commencement. TTU has invested funds to improve the infrastructure for student support services, retention rates and graduation rates to provide students with the support services needed for a successful experience at TTU. High school graduation numbers are lower than normal and with the Tennessee Promise initiative, higher education is a highly competitive business. TTU must be aggressive in recruiting and retaining students and provide a quality higher education academic experience for all students.

TTU will become the managing partner of the facilities and infrastructure for the Cookeville Higher Education Campus (formerly NSCC-Cookeville Campus). Three schools will partner (NSCC, VSCC and TTU) to provide higher education opportunities for the region and to offer four-year completion programs in industrial development and many other programs of study. Certificate programs as well as two- and four-year degree programs will be offered at the site. Currently, only 30 percent of the facility is being utilized, so the intent is to fully utilize the facility and provide high-demand courses and programs for the region.

The TTU Foundation recently purchased the Regions Bank building, located on Broad Street in Cookeville. Future plans are for the University to purchase the building from the Foundation when appropriate. An architect has been retained for planning of space utilization. Current plans are to relocate Information Technology Services to this site to free space in Clement Hall for the College of Engineering. Other units will be relocated as appropriate. Additional property purchases underway are the GI Depot and Armstrong properties with closings anticipated by the end-of-June. President Oldham applauded Jim Cobb, who has been managing the property purchases, and stated that he is doing a great job and represents the University well with the community in acquiring properties. President Oldham also noted that due to state constraints, only appraisal value can be paid for properties.

Campus Beautification

Guest Kevin Tucker presented plans for the landscaping and beautification of the campus. Mr. Tucker provided that this is a work in progress that began in August 2013 with goals to be the best in the state and region. With four teams working in the areas of logistics, landscaping, sustainability and recycling, many projects have been completed but many more are underway and some just in the drawing/outline phase. Mr. Tucker shared information of current projects

Staff Advisory Committee
Page 2, May 18, 2015

and drawings for future projects. President Oldham expressed his gratitude for all the hard work being completed to make the campus pleasing to all.

Suggestion Box Comments/Responses

Comments: 1) Is there any truth to the rumor that the Post Office and Printing Services are being contracted out? 2) Also, is the rumor true that staff will be contracted out? 3) There are a lot of people who are interested in a buyout. If it were to be offered again, you would have a huge success rate this time. Will there be another buyout anytime soon?

Responses—1) Contract with Ricoh is being developed to provide a full service print shop to include postal services for a high-tech center for use by students, employees and campus departments. Employees will be provided option to remain with Ricoh. 2) There are no major plans for outsourcing of clerical/support employees. 3) There are no current plans for a buyout.

Comment re: Fitness Center membership issue and response included as attachment to the minutes.

Other such matters

Call for nominations for chairman of the Staff Advisory Committee for the 2015-2016 academic year was made by Chairman Edwards. Ms. Martin nominated Ms. Becky Asher to serve as the committee chair; Ms. Mayberry seconded. The floor was open for additional nominations, and hearing none, Ms. Martin moved that nominations cease and Ms. Asher be elected by acclamation. Motion APPROVED.

Chairman Edwards thanked all for the support received while serving as chairman of the Staff Advisory Committee.

There being no further business, Ms. Sullivan moved to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded. Meeting ADJOURNED at 10:13 a.m.

Terri Taylor, Recorder

Attachment

Memorandum

To: Tennessee Tech Staff Advisory Committee to the President
From: David Mullinax, Director of TTU Campus Recreation
Date: May 13, 2015
Subject: **Response to Employee Suggestion – Payroll Deduction for Fitness Center Access**

We apologize for the confusion regarding our payroll deduction program and we appreciate this being brought to our attention. In an effort to resolve this issue, we will be changing the wording on the form that makes it clear how the program works. We will also continue to verbally communicate that process on the front end to be sure that it is clearly understood.

An employee asked if we can check into this for her.

The issue is with the fitness center membership clause? The paper reads your membership will expire on a certain date but then it states in the attachment that you will continue to be billed indefinitely. How can my membership expire but you continue to bill me? If you're going to continue to bill me I should have an indefinite membership.

How can both apply? As a curiosity can employees be notified when their membership is getting ready to expire or before their payment is deducted out of their check?