USAC Meeting Summary
June 12, 2012
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by David Curtis at 1:05 pm.

Members present: Mark Brooking, Cheryl Burns, John Butt, Holly Caruso, Bill Chappell, Glenice Coombs, David Curtis, Molly Field, Shelle Flowers, Andy Gurka, Manny Haines, John Jacobus, Denise Johnston, Crista LaPrade, Lindsey Love, Lisa Miles, Keith Mitchell, Andrew Morton, Adrienne Piazza, Martha Pittaway, Chrissy Poindexter, Francine Reynolds, Jerry Robinson, Sadie Simmons, Bryn Taylor, Andrew Morton, Paul Witten

Members absent: Ray Causey, Katybeth Lee, LaQuashia Pegeas, Karen Turner

1) General updates

David Curtis welcomed new members to Council.

Baby announcements:
Katybeth Lee May 7
Mike Torquato May 18
Karen Turner May 16

2012-2013 USAC Executive Board announcement:
Adrienne Piazza, Chair
Andy Gurka, Vice Chair
Cheryl Burns, Recording Secretary
Lindsey Love, Parliamentarian
Molly Field, Communications Chair

2) Welcome of new members and introductions

David Curtis asked each member of Council to introduce themselves to the group

3) Web submissions

There were no web submissions

4) Constituent concerns

It was asked if it would be possible for an employee who is separating from the University to donate their sick leave to another staff member in need (due to disability). Carl Sorenson stated that the current policy does not allow employees to donate their sick leave. However, once the short-term disability program is implemented, it should resolve many of scenarios such as this.

Additionally, regarding Health Savings Accounts (HSA); the HSA administrator recently experienced a change to their banking provider, and therefore, several people received emails from the HSA administrator. The administrator of the plan should be sending more information in the coming weeks.

A general comment was made regarding SpringFest; lots of positive feedback, everyone seemed to have fun. There was a request to see more vegetarian options.
5) **USAC year in review**

Over the past year, the USAC Staff Involvement Committee created four affinity groups: Parenting, UR Involved, Elder Care, and most recently, Cancer Care and Support. A new affinity group for sustainability is in the works. The affinity groups have been very popular and continue to help promote work/life balance.

In response to a need for better communication, a Communications Chair was added to the USAC Executive Board.

David Curtis thanked Lisa Miles for her hard work on the Elections Committee. Over the past year, the Elections Committee worked to modify the existing by-laws to ensure an equitable election process by categorizing employees as exempt or non-exempt. David Curtis also thanked Andy Morton and Holly Caruso for their work on the elections software. This year, over 630 people voted, which was a 16% increase from the previous year.

David Curtis acknowledged Lisa Miles for her role in recognizing the UR staff that kept the University operational during Hurricane Irene. Thanks to Lisa, the University community could express their appreciation by signing banners and cards for those staff that had to work in such unfavorable conditions and be away from their families.

USAC assisted with a student sponsored food drive, called UR Thankful, which helped collect food for Central VA Foodbank.

In Fall 2010, the Staff Involvement Committee raffled off 75 theatre tickets to *A Raisin in the Sun*.

6) **Open Forum discussion**

Council broke into six groups to review the data from this year’s open forum. The groups discussed strategic ideas in their groups, and then reported dominant themes back to the entire Council. Work in this area will continue at the July meeting.

7) **Recognition of outgoing members**

The following outgoing USAC members were recognized for their outstanding service to USAC:
- Mark Brooking
- Glenice Coombs
- Chrissy Poindexter
- Francine Reynolds
- John Jacobus
- Lisa Miles – David Curtis extended an extra thank you to Lisa for her hard work on the Elections Committee
- Shelle Flowers – David Curtis extended an extra thank you to Shelle for her hard work as recording Secretary
- Holly Caruso – David Curtis extended an extra thank you to Holly her hard work as IS guru
- David Curtis – Adrienne Piazza extended an extra thank you to David for his hard work as Chair

8) **Staff “Pop” tail Party**

Council was invited to stay and have pictures taken and be social.
Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10 in Tyler Haynes Commons, Room 305

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Burns, Recording Secretary