University of Nevada Reno

Staff Employees Council (SEC)

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2015

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, Joe Crowley Student Union

Representatives Present: Alyssa Bennett, Albert Bonk (Ex-Officio Chair), Betsy Brownfield (Chair), Michelle Bruce, Christina Carver, Jodi Fraser, Carla Geib (Treasurer), Erik Williams (proxy for Margo Grubic), Robert Hernandez, Natsumi Housely, Kathy Johnson (Vice-Chair), Lindsarae Klaes (Public Relations Coordinator), Harley LaRoche, Menard Lontoc, Kerrie Medeiros, Lana Reeves, Alicia Seefeldt, Dawna Synder, Pamela Terango, Kristi Roberson (proxy for Adria White), Jodi Yocum.

Representatives Absent: Jennifer Laslo, Lori Leas (we could not connect with her on Skype), Mary Miller, Mona Watts.

Guest Speakers: Provost Carman; Ed Smith – Nevada Cooperative Extension; Karen Barsell – United Way

I. Announcements/Action Items
   a. Approval of September minutes moved by Alicia and seconded by Albert. All were in favor.

II. Provost Carman
   a. Went over the questions presented by classified staff members. The first question was how Silver Core will affect current students. He said it won’t affect them at all, and within 4-5 years, all students will be using this curriculum.
   b. Christina asked about the apartment building and the parking lot north of it on Center Street. She asked if it was ours. Provost Carman said that the University is exercising its right to buy it. Within a couple of years it could be student housing or a part of the Business School Complex. Albert asked if the property included the dirt lot next to the apartment complex. Provost Carman didn’t know.
   c. He said that we are beginning to prepare for the next biennial legislative session. The last session the Governor focused on K-12 education, and he wants to focus on higher
education in the next session. Regent Trachok said that this is a historic opportunity for higher education.

d. He said that UNR is not typical of most universities. Many eastern universities are looking to grow the student population. He mentioned a Washington Post article that read something to the affect that Southeastern Universities are growing rapidly. The article gave the top five flagship schools in the country, and UNR placed number five on the list. UNR is the flagship University of Nevada. But he reiterated that we are trying to curb our growth by narrowing the window and accepting the more ‘dedicated student’. This includes changing the application deadline from May 1st to April 17 in 2017. Of course we don’t want to decrease the number of students, so it is a balancing act.

e. Nevada FIT will be mandatory to College of Science starting the fall of 2017. It will affect about 500 students.

III. Ed Smith – Nevada Cooperative Extension

a. He began by saying how much he appreciates the classified staff at the University and of course in his office.

b. Living with Fire program began in 1999 and it included Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Station. The approach was to develop a consensus of the local and state firefighters and the University and to construct a package that would help target audiences. They put out workshops, PSA’s, radio announcements, t.v. and newspaper ads, billboards and newsletters to get the word across.

c. There are 67 communities in Nevada that are in high or extreme fire danger areas.

d. He discussed the worst and the best kind of mulch for yards. The worst two are rubber and shredded mulch. The best is compost mulch with manure and wood chips.

e. Ed mentioned various workshops and resources to help prepare people for wildfires. Some are:

   i. Wildfire Awareness Month which is in May. There are over 100 events and activities to educate homeowners.

   ii. Junk the Junipers – this is part of Wildfire Awareness Month. Homeowners can bring in the junipers, rabbit brush, sagebrush and other woody vegetation around their home and have it chipped for free. Junipers are highly flammable
and if they are kept, they should be kept at least keep them 30 feet away from a home and kept free of debris.

iii. In an interview with a firefighter after the Caughlin Ranch fire, it was mentioned that when people left in a hurry, they accidentally left their garage doors open. This allows embers to blow into the garage and potentially start a fire.

iv. Nevada Wildland Urban Interface Summit.

v. Bandanas to give out as well as keychain flash drive that keeps a list of your valuables.

vi. The Nevada Network of Fore Adapted Communities conference. This year it will be held at the Atlantis on Nov. 9.

IV. New Business

a. Betsy told everyone about the Joan Metcalf Cope Scholarship and that it is now on the SEC website. She said the amount given varies, and it does not have to be applied to a degree seeking class. Anyone can apply and now we can only apply for the spring semester, and the deadline is February 1.

b. Development funds - can’t use a GIA and development funds.

c. If anyone has any news to get out, Betsy said to please email Lindsey with it.

d. Jodi Yocum said that there will be a Nevada Cancer fundraiser on November 20 from 4:00-7:00pm at Ben’s Discount Liquor on Moana and Lakeside. For a $10 donation there will be beer and liquor tasting, catered finger foods, and music.

e. Dawna Snyder talked about the International Travel Committee. It ensures the health and safety of students, staff and faculty. Travelers must complete an eight page assessment form if the country they are going to has a warning. If there’s no students traveling and there’s no warning, then only a travel request is necessary. Students need assessment form whether there’s a warning or not.

f. Betsy reminded everyone to sign up for committees and told the council that Alicia Seefeldt changed positions and is leaving the council.

V. Karen Barsell – United Way

a. She said that Northern Nevada United Way serves 139 zip codes and 13 counties. Volunteers make it successful. The community assessment told the United Way was for
students to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade. There is a direct correlation between not reading by age 8 and not graduating.

b. Little Free Libraries – United Way made eight free little libraries and put them around the state.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35