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# GFCSSA Meeting Minutes

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## Call to order

A meeting of [Great Falls College Staff Senate Association](#) held in [Room G122](#) on [6/20/2019](#). Senators in attendance included [Laramie Smovir](#), [Priscilla Azure](#), [Ben Truman](#), [EJ Suek](#), [Samantha Fairhurst](#), [Paul Gallagher](#), [Tony Bernatonis](#), and [Andrea Fossen](#). Others in attendance included [Mallory Antovel](#), [Cheryl McGee](#), [Stacy Lowry](#), [Taylor Alexander](#), and [Denise Ostberg](#). Meeting called to order at 1:31 PM by Vice President Tony Bernatonis.

## Approval of minutes

The May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes sent out via email to all constituents. Motion to approve minutes, no one opposed, minutes approved unanimously.

## Consent/Informational Items

### I. Summer Staff Appreciation – submitted and presented by Lorene Jaynes

- Lorene stated that in the past they have done an event for the staff that is on campus through the summer, such as an ice cream social or barbecue. They would like to revive this tradition and wanted to know what would be the best. They would like to say thank you and have some team/morale building time.
- Senators will take the information back to their constituents and email Lorene if they have any other suggestions.

#### Suggestions:

- Sumo Wrestling
- Staff Olympics or field day (to include all ability levels)
- Barbecue is preferred over ice cream or dessert
- Water balloons – staff vs. ET
- Food Trucks
- Taco bar

#### Senator Comments/Discussion:

- Who will cover the offices while staff is being appreciated?
- Who is going to set up and clean up while they are being appreciated?
- Best time would be the first week after classes end.

### II. Nap Room Followup

- We have secured a room (G121) and an inflatable couch for the nap room. However, we need help figuring out how to schedule the space and keep people from sleeping in there for extended periods of time.
- Concerns brought up were:
  - We would have to revise the policy that states that you can not sleep on shift.
  - Cleanliness
  - People doing inappropriate things

- It was decided that the staff breakroom has comfortable chairs that people can nap in or they can sleep in their cars. Since there are multiple issues, it was unanimously decided that we discontinue discussions about the nap room.

### III. MUSSA/BOR Meeting Update

- We will send out the MUSSA Strategic Plan tracking sheet for everyone to take a look.
- Priscilla and Laramie (along with the rest of the MUSSA team) met with the Board of Regents when they were here. It went pretty well, including the possibility of a staff award which we will find out more about later.

### IV. Staff Senate Representation

- IT and Maintenance have more than double the amount of people than other departments represented by only one senator. The question was posed that to keep fair representation, should these departments have more than one senator?
  - There were concerns that would give those departments more voting power.
  - We haven't had all the chairs full until now, how likely are we to be able to fill those additional chairs.
  - We are a senate, not a house of representatives. Meaning there is equal representation no matter how big the population.
  - It was unanimously decided that we leave things as they are for now.
- The question was posed if we would like to include professional staff to the Staff Senate.
  - People that are on contract are not represented by a senate including advisors.
  - Initially, we did not include professional staff is because it would then include some supervisors. We did not want staff to feel like they were not free to express their opinion.
  - We could include one seat for professional staff at large and allow them one vote.
  - It was suggested that we find out who the contract staff that is not represented and each senator include them when considering their vote.
  - Professional staff should be invited to the meetings and if they attend regularly we can revisit this topic.
  - The discussion was tabled until senators could speak to their constituents.

### V.. Suggestion Box

- There was a suggestion to have better water, culligan water contract, or reverse osmosis filters in the water fountains. It was decided that this will be referred to the Executive Team due to the cost that would be associated.
- There was a suggestion that the food on campus is limited and was wondering about possible food trucks or improving on campus food.
  - The bookstore works with no funding and is limited with what they can do. They also expand their menu during the semester when students are here. They are a student facing service.
  - Tony will work on getting together a list of food trucks available and working with the executive team to make sure we follow all the no solicitation rules and with the bookstore to reduce their waste.

## Action Items

### I. Eagle Feather Policy – submitted by Julie Freshly, presented by Kathy Meier

- In an attempt to make the graduation ceremony more enriching for our Native American students, they would like to present eagle feathers. They would like to put a box on the graduation application that students can check if they would like to receive one, but did not have a policy in place stating the requirements of receiving the feather. There are also federal regulations in regards to possessing and handling eagle feathers. A permit from the US Fish Wildlife Services is required to obtain the feathers.

Therefore, they would like to put a policy in place to address these concerns. (Policy draft attached to minutes).

- There was several areas of discussion:
  - There was some concerns about the wording of the policy. The word “gifted” was questioned.
  - We as a school are not able to obtain the permit for eagle feathers. How do we plan on obtaining the feathers in the future when Dugan Coburn and Don Fish are no longer on campus? We will have to pay the person for the permit?
  - Who will be funding the eagle ceremony (feathers and beading materials)? There is no charge for the feathers.
  - Since we are not a tribal school, are we legally able to award the feathers or would it be better for us to facilitate the location for the/a tribe to do the award ceremony rather than the school.
  - What about our other students who’s culture has a ceremony of some sort, will we allow or facilitate those? The example given was for those Phillipine students we have being given a lei after crossing the stage.
  - Will the feathers only be awarded to students of federal recognized tribes, in which case Little Shell would not be included? Or will they only be given by a member of a federally recognized tribe and how does that work with the federal laws if given to a non-federally recognized tribal student?
  - Is the presentation of the eagle feather something that happens in all tribes or is this a plains tribes things?
  - Could we look at having family members award the feathers to the students and having the school facilitate it?
  - Does this include Canadian Native Students?
  - Does Great Falls College want to shoulder the liability or would it be better to facilitate and not be liable?
  - What happens if we have this policy and miss people?
  - Do we want to add another thing to the application or could we just include the information and a form they can fill out that goes with the application?
- It was suggested that we table the vote until we have further discussion with our constituents and a better execution plan is provided.

## Adjournment

A motion was initiated to adjourn the meeting, no one opposed, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

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Secretary

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Date