STAFF CONGRESS

MINUTES

April 19, 2006

Members of Staff Congress met on April 19, 2006, in Old Centre. Those attending included: Glenda Beaven, Adam Johnson, Patrick Noltemeyer, Donna Phillips, Dotti Rinehart, Don Taylor, Ann Young, and Mona Wyatt.

The group approved the minutes of the March meeting. There was general discussion of the Staff Spring March Madness event and all agreed it was a success. The members have all heard that staff is wanting us to do it again next year. Dotti shared thank notes and emails she had received after the event.

Under old business, Glenda said that we are still waiting on the human resource committee to meet for an update on the 125 Flexible Spending Account plan.

Under New Business, Dotti asked if we should have another full group meeting. She suggested emailing a summary of the year to all staff instead. There was discussion of what to do at the next full meeting. Mona suggested that if we do not have a lot of business to report on, we could have a motivational speaker, possibly someone local. Everyone agreed to have Dotti email a summary to staff for the end of the year and the group will continue to discuss whether or not to have a summer full meeting.

Dotti passed out a sheet for members to respond to, which lists all the possible topics for professional development workshops that the College might sponsor for staff. She asked everyone to return the form to her.

Glenda brought up the election of new members. She has talked to Jami Powell about helping us get the online voting ready. The new members would take office on August 1. Those going off are: Mona Wyatt, Donna Phillips, Don Taylor and Adam Johnson.

There was discussion of whether or not someone could be re-elected immediately, and the bylaws do allow for that. Members do not have to sit off a year but can be reelected immediately.

There was also discussion of how often the group meets, and the bylaws state that the “Steering Committee shall call quarterly meetings of the entire membership.”

Glenda also talked with Jami about the current Staff Congress web page. Most of the information on it is two years behind. Jami helped to develop the
Patrick has offered to redo the page and put it into Dreamweaver so that it can be more easily monitored and passed on. There was general discussion of whether or not the page is useful. Everyone agreed that we would need to publicize it more. It was suggested that we could put the current members on there and have an email link to each of them. Patrick will pursue this.

Patrick reported on his attendance at the recent Stratus meeting (the planning consultants). He said that they are working several staff issues, including: merit-based increase in pay based on increasing your education and tuition assistance for staff professional development. He said that all the staff benefits are in very preliminary planning stages. Patrick said he would also be bringing up the possibilities of tuition assistance or reimbursement for staff to develop technical professional skills at future meetings.

Another thing that Patrick is working on with Kay and Megan is to create an orientation program for Centre staff in addition to the human resource orientation. They want to set up an orientation program for all new faculty and staff that would cover the culture of the college, not just benefits. They would help introduce people to Centre and explain its history and some of its culture. It would to build good morale right from the start of employment and to build greater affiliation with the College. Many other schools do this. Patrick said he and Kay and Megan would be working on it this summer.

The group adjourned and set the next meeting date as WEDNESDAY, May 24th. (Note this is a change from the usual date, as May 17th is the closing day for school).