



# Cornell University Employee Assembly

## **MINUTES** **Employee Assembly Meeting** **Wednesday, June 17, 2015** **12:15 -1:30 pm** **701 Clark Hall** **"Being an active Voice for Cornell Staff"**

### **I. Call to Order**

BJ Siasoco called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Present: M. de Roos, S. Cowles, W. Esty, T. Grove, A. Kohut, J. Kruser, E. Lee, B. Nicholson, R. Onyejuruwa, M. Pilgrim, B. Siasoco, M. Stefanski Seymour, D. Sun, P. Thompson

Absent: N. Bell, C. Ferguson, S. Jenks, B. Kepner, G. Mezey

Also Present: U. Smith, N. Doolittle, G. Giambattista, A. O'Donnell

### **II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda**

None

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

1. **5/20/15 Minutes** – T. Grove motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The members voted and the minutes were approved.
2. **6/3/15 Minutes** – E. Lee motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The members voted and the minutes were approved.

### **IV. Report from the Chair**

1. **Topics of interest on the horizon-**  
BJ Siasoco gave an overview.
2. **Rolling out new structure-**  
C. Ferguson said he was interested in leading the charge to discuss the plan. The new structure would have college and unit seats and affinity groups.
3. **Getting buy in from new CU Leadership-**  
Vice President Opperman and others seem positive about it already.
4. **Effective advocacy to the Board of Trustees-**  
The EA needs to work effectively with the Board, but what does that look like? M. Stefanski Seymour asked if in the future it could be during the work day, as it was difficult for some to stay late. G. Giambattista noted that it was well received the EA brought solutions, not just complaints to the last meeting.

## **V. Business of the Day**

### **1. Group Introductions-**

M. Pilgrim motioned to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and the EA voted to adjourn into a brief executive session.

*BJ resumed the EA meeting about 15 minutes later.*

### **2. Outlining major events for the EA**

- There was a brief discussion on the President's Address to Staff event-will be in contact with his office and with Mary Opperman to coordinate, hopefully in October, more to come on that.
- BJ Siasoco asked for some volunteers to help with Staff Development Day on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Baker Portico/Atrium-please email him if you are interested in helping out.
- Lynette Chappell Williams is hosting an open to all Cornell event with an outside speaker to discuss bullying 10-11am April 28, 2016, T. Grove suggested the EA develop a resolution to support staff attendance since it is during work hours.
- M. Stefanski Seymour suggested the EA participate in the upcoming Inauguration festivities. G. Giambattista said the Assembly chairs will be asked to participate.
- BJ Siasoco asked if there were any other events to discuss, and G. Giambattista said she would like to see the EA coordinate with HR and participate in the "High 5" events in the future.
- Employee Day – always nice for the EA to participate and show a presence at CU events, but there's not typically much interest for staff to come to the EA table unless we have a good giveaway for them.
- N. Doolittle suggested the EA look into participating in the next Employee Benefair also.
- T. Grove said we should invite President Garrett and all the new administrative staff members to a meeting at the same time,-a regular meeting or an extra meeting-so they are all aware and hearing the same thing to start the year.

#### **▪ Locking in meeting dates**

A. O'Donnell will put the EA meetings on calendars in the next week or two.

### **4. EA Update dates**

E. Lee suggested the EA enews should stay as a monthly message if possible.

### **5. Setting expectations for EA members**

BJ said we will try to avoid scheduling EA events during member busy times as much as possible. M. Pilgrim said Aug/Sept are the worst for the Residence Hall Staff. B. Esty said early June is bad time for his area due to Reunion activities. J. Kruser said the first two weeks and last two weeks of each semester are tough for him as their volume is very high.

The EA can adopt these 4 agreements plus one extra;

- 1) Be impeccable with your word
- 2) Don't take things personally
- 3) Don't make assumptions
- 4) Always do your best

5) Be skeptical, but learn to listen \*

**6. Setting EA Retreat date**

BJ said he would send out a doodle poll to get a good date for the retreat so please be on the look out for that.

**VI. Old Business**

None

**VII. New Business**

None

**VIII. Adjournment**

M. Stefanski Seymour motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the EA meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Amy O'Donnell**