

Staff Assembly Meeting

April 4, 2012

The Assembly was called to order at 9:05pm by Lisa Magnarelli, who thanked the group for coming. Reminded the group about the Wellness Fair

I. Update from President Stewart

President Stewart hopes to see all of us at the Wellness Fair.

President Stewart knows that spring has arrived since she has begun to have a series of senior evenings at her home. Every graduating senior is invited; many come twice because of double majors. Faculty members are there as well and everyone enjoys the time spent there. Thanked all involved in prepping for the dinners. Infinitely grateful to Sue Campanie, for all of her work. A lot is invested in these events, but it is one of the things that distinguishes us from other schools.

Board meeting. The men & women on the board go unpaid and do all of this work because they believe in the College and what we are doing. Thanked the Assembly for all we do for the meeting to make it run smoothly. Budget information; increase fee by 4%; pool for raises 3.3%. That money will be distributed by individual and performance. Arts project, no final vote due to continuing discussions on cost. Economy and finances, very much on the minds of the Board. Close attention will be paid to our spending. President Stewart went to Albany for a conference of representatives of 110 private colleges; and found that similar conversations were being held at these schools. All are wrestling with same issues.

Bicentennial: This is not only a grand occasion for Hamilton, but there are many local events as well: St. James Church celebrates its 125th anniversary, the Clinton Arts and Historical their 50th, the ABC program, its 40th; the 25th anniversary for the Writing Center; and the 50th anniversary of Bonomo's!!

President Stewart recently had a tour of the Wellin Museum construction site. The Museum is going to be glorious. Spaces are right sized and all is beautiful. Steve Bellona was awarded the Distinguished Service award from the Trustees.

The senior staff is currently reading nomination letters for the Eugene Tobin award. Hard to choose and the senior staff find the letters moving.

The Bicentennial Campaign, \$117 million goal was surpassed 16 months ahead of schedule. Where does the campaign go from now, not sure. Do we extended it or end it? Individual buckets are not full at this time, so we are likely to extend it.

We will be celebrating bicentennial class at Class and Charter Day, graduation and during reunions in June. Specific bicentennial planning will slacken off after those events. Thanked the Assembly in advance for our work to make those happen. Planning for the College's 300th anniversary has begun. President Stewart has begun writing a letter to the class of 2112 for the time capsule. Items submitted are on display. The president read an excerpt from her letter.

April 16th is accepted students open house.

President Stewart repeated that she is very, very grateful for all we do.

II. Construction update – Steve Bellona (Slide presentation available on the Staff Assembly website)

Steve began by thanking the 117 folks working for him and explained how things we are able to do is because of this group of men and women.

Presented a map of a very robust project list and listed all individual projects with possible completion dates. Including is a closure of the quad for work on CJ Hall, which is the largest project for the summer.

The new Arts department is going out for bid and expected back by May 14th for June approval by the Board of Trustees. Steve shared a map of possible construction zone. All parking lots around the project will be taken offline for construction 4 June to 17 August 2012. This will be a two year project, completion anticipated for July 2014. This will be a very tight site, not unlike Art Museum. If the plans are approved, the new building will make a large difference for that department.

Sustainability and Energy Project. The College reduced our energy consumption to our 2000 level. Though we are 23% larger, we have made this happen. Net carbon emissions have dropped but need 10-20% more reduction. However, to all of us “Bravo Zulu” or well done!

Q&A for Steve:

Where will people park during the Art building's construction. Steve said that the Root lot for students will be used.

A member of the assembly asked, can I compost this, holding up a coffee cup? Yes, if you put it into the recycling bin and if it doesn't contain food.

III. Staff Assembly Committee Reports

A. Nominations & Elections (Jay Bonham)

The committee will be meeting Monday, April 9th. Announced elections for new Staff Assembly will be happening soon and new council members should on board by July 1st.

B. Communications (Regina Johnson)

The committee is working on bringing back the Around the Hill. For those who do not remember it, it is/was basically an employee newsletter. We are working with colleagues in C&D to create an online version with a print version to go up to Plant. A question about handicapped parking was sent in: "Is there a Handicapped parking guide to the campus? Have noticed some Handicapped spots that lead to "nowhere" by KJ." Campus Safety reports that there isn't a map of where spots are, but that their website has all the information necessary on how to obtain handicapped parking on campus. Please call them directly if you have any questions or concerns. As to the Parking by KJ, there are four parking spots on the left just past the KJ circle. There are three to four spots on the Babbitt circle and two more on the List circle.

C. Employment Environment and Professional Development (Anne Riffle)

The committee is working on putting together a survey to send out to the Assembly. The survey will be used to determine what employees are looking for...development programs, public speaking classes, hobbies, gatherings etc.

D. Ad hoc Committee on Wellness (Erin Glasser and Amy James)

This is a LARGE, lively committee. Subcommittees developing different ideas like podcasts. They have been working with Dave Thompson on the Wellness fair and have also been thinking of incentives for getting people into the fitness center.

Erin discussed the committee's first concrete effort, today is National Walking day initiated by American Heart Association. A week from today, Hamilton will celebrate National walking day at 12:10pm. There will be an email to community announcing where and when, it will be about a mile with markers. You can sign up at the Wellness Fair! If you feel particularly interested in this idea, sign up as a building captain to build the event in your department. Don't forget the HamTrek walk and the Boilermaker walk. The mile route next week will be on campus (flat areas)...flash mob of walkers! Why walking is important, 30 minutes of exercise a day is the general recommendation. It doesn't have to be done all at once; you can break it down into segments. Ideas were to walk and talk for a meeting, walk and shop, etc.

Dave Thompson stopped into the meeting from the Wellness Fair and thanked committee for help. Said that all the work is for naught unless we all get involved. Doesn't what matter what happened to this point, matters what you do today. Hopes the fair gives you motivation to get moving. Wellness cup this year will include participation in HamTrek. Fair includes vendors, lunch and many interesting raffles items!

IV. Q&A

None

V. Announcements

Jeff McArn and the Common Read Committee. The committee is interested in giving the community help with getting the book. While they cannot supply everyone with one, the 26 essays will be on reserve in the library. If you or your division really believes you will read the book, contact Jeff McArn.

Amy James announced that the donations for Country Pantry may have slipped minds, but we'll take anything that folks have brought.

Jeff McArn brought Roxanne Bellamy Campbell to the front of the room for introductions.

The Assembly adjourned at 9:58am.

RPJ