

Staff Assembly Meeting Hybrid

December 8, 2021 9:00am

Announcements: Katrina Schell and Lucy Burke

Lucy Burke: Welcome and update on "Frost Fest" Community committee will update later
We will be taking donations for the Country pantry at the party.

Katrina-
New Employees

David Wippman:

- Thank you to everyone for hard work
- Update on Pandemic planning for Spring - More covid cases this fall than either of the first two semesters.
 - Over 99% of community members vaccinated
 - Will most likely be still testing in Spring semester
 - Discussions to require booster for community members - no decisions made yet
 - Off campus study may be affected as variants to covid may impact travel, This may affect housing on campus. There is a committee working on this possibility.
- Board of Trustees update - First in person meeting since 3/2020
 - Board expressed deep appreciation for everyone's work since Covid.
 - Reviewing the budget forecast for next year. Discussed inflation on employees.
 - Discussed trying to achieve carbon neutrality.
 - Suggestion for infrastructure changes and alternative energy sources to help with carbon footprint.
 - A neutrality committee formed to continue working on the climate action plan.
- Searching for a number of senior positions on Campus. Dean of Faculty, Head of Facilities Management, Chief Diversity officer,
- President Wippman expressed concern for lack of civility as watching news around the world. Understanding this has been a tough time but a plea for keeping the type of institutional culture strong we have here at Hamilton.

Questions:

- We are not aware of what is going on without the weekly emails updating on covid

Answer:

- You can always check the covid dashboard. We stopped sending the weekly emails to avoid some anxiety.
- Karen Leach answer: We could not say anything new other than what was already said. There will be an update and guidance email at the end of the semester. You can always contact the task force with any questions.

- President Wippman added that we have not had to update our covid status. The transmission rate in Oneida county is very high. You can check that on the county website for the most up to date information.

Question:

- Can the campus provide composting capabilities?
- Brian Hansen answered that he would be happy to look into that.

Question:

- If staff will be on the search committee?

Answer:

- Yes

HERT update: Jeff Landry and Jerry Tylutki

Jeff - HERT (Hamilton Emergency Response Team) engaged with a consultant to improve how the team functions.

1. Look at the Size of the team. So for efficiency the team was simplified. Will be looking to add a faculty member
2. Separate the HERT team for a crisis mgt team. Lead by Pres Wippman and senior staff to answer immediate questions and decisions.
3. Communications. Currently email, text. Updating to a new more efficient system.

Jerry- Everbridge new communications system.

- Allows us to communicate better and more efficiently on campus. An app that we can install and push out notifications.
- Will start to use this at the start of the spring semester.
- Everyone on campus will continue to get alerts as normal, it will be easier for those sending out alerts.
- New Alert beacons that will be installed on campus, They will display alerts. Audible and visual alert. Lockdown and more serious situations.
- Also a software that will send out a desktop notification as well.
- With everbridge the speed will be more immediate.

Questions:

- Is this system active?
- Yes, The alert beacons are already installed. Will be used in the Spring semester.

Committee Reports

- Communications - Lucy Burke. Newsletter that went out to campus. Send on Dec 3rd. This will give info of new people to the community and interview people who have been on campus and events on campus.
- Community - Frost fest - Dec 20th 12 - 3pm. In front of the library, Many events. Food trucks, Bon appetit, Desserts, Drinks, Much more. Horse drawn carriage rides, Music,

Smores, Warming stations, Sing alongs Winter games, Door prizes, Country pantry donations.

- Wellness - Mary Collis - Dedication to Dave Thompson. Thanking Dave Thompson for all of his work and service.
- New equipment in the fitness center will be closed for a few days.
- Nominations - None

Reminder -

Closing remarks

- Next Staff Assembly meeting February 2 2022.
- Please reach out to the Staff assembly with any questions.