

## MINUTES OF STAFF COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2005

Present: Mary Burke, Jo Anne Harding, Sandra Jones, Joe Kiser, Martha Necessary, Carolea Newsome, David Short, Chancellor Ern, and Connie Hope. Absent: Rebecca Huffman, Paul Kilgore, Linda Meade, Tamara Robinson, and Tim Wright.

Martha called the meeting to order.

### **Old items for discussion**

The Employee Recognition Program is doing well. Connie will work on plans to ask those employees who have received shirts to wear them to the spring picnic and to have a group picture taken at that time. She will speak with Jane Dean to discuss sending a press release to the Coalfield Progress.

Chancellor Ern reported that each of twenty-nine staff members who have retired in recent years will receive a commemorative chair. The chairs will be presented to the retirees at the spring picnic.

Chancellor Ern also gave an update on the Chancellor search. The position advertisement is in the current edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. There will be a search committee meeting on March 30 and the hiring consultant is working on dossiers for screened applicants.

### **New items for discussion**

The Council discussed initiating a scholarship fund for staff as their next project. Chancellor Ern said he is aware of an established fund at UVa for staff that he would research and report on at the next meeting.

An education program for senior citizens was also discussed. Joe will contact the Twin Leaf Society concerning the project as a possible undertaking for their members.

Other ideas that were brought to the table for possible future projects were an emergency fund for faculty and staff, and events to improve the relationship between the college and the town.

Connie Hope reminded the Council that open enrollment for benefits will begin in April.

### **Report – Social Committee**

Committee members have been in contact with River's Way to schedule a spring event. They are also working with employees from Charlottesville who may be available to visit campus to present various training workshops in the near future.

### **Report – Employee Relations Committee**

Work is ongoing with the staff handbook. The next scheduled meeting will be March 23.

### **Report – Treasurer**

There were no expenditures in February 2005. Balance to date: \$604.59  
Possible future expenditures: Approximately \$300.00 deposit for the River's Way event.

**The next meeting is Tuesday, April 5, 2005.**