Quality of Life Minutes

Meeting on 1/16/07

In attendance: Monica Baloga, Bob Taylor, Amy Williams, Frank Leslie, Melinda Milsap, Tom Stewart, Mark Ritter, Greg Tsark, Geoffrey Goutallier, Carolyn Fausnaugh

The meeting opened with updates and announcements about several old business items.

It was noted that the Panthereum (and Frank Leslie) was featured in a short story in Florida Today that highlighted an upcoming jazz concert that will be open to the public. Frank commented that WFIT and the City of Melbourne were sponsoring the event to be held on Jan. 28th from 3 – 6 p.m. The committee members are encouraged to attend and to announce it to their colleagues.

An update on the campus recycling report submitted last year by Mark Ritter, Monica Baloga, and Yulia Malikova revealed that funding was approved for beginning the program and that one person from Facilities would be designated to run the operation. The current student Green Campus group is working on further these efforts.

Greg Tsark reported that developers are being encouraged to submit their designs for the 350 bed apartment-style student housing structure to be built near the south property line of campus. He also stated that there are plans for a food-service facility and a parking garage as well. He assured the committee that the wetlands at the south end of campus would not be disturbed. The date of occupancy for the student housing is anticipated to be Fall 2008, and the sophomore requirement for living on campus may be imposed. There is also talk about constructing a 50-meter pool, although firm plans for that have not been established.

In new business, conversation about updating the website led to the mention of several staff who might be able to help with its redesign. Melinda Milsap mentioned Josh Culver from Publications, who may be willing to evaluate the website and comment on its redesign and effectiveness. Sharon Ainsley was mentioned as someone who works on web design.

Monica then asked about several items and questions voiced by students who could not attend the meeting due to class conflict. Sara Riggs emailed asking about the placement of spray bottles with cleaning fluids in the workout area of the Clemente Center. Mark Ritter commented that this was already being considered. Don Schumacher asked about the crowding that occurred in Evans and other dining areas when visiting college students came to campus. Specifically he wondered about their schedules and whether it could be arranged so that their eating times did not conflict with the peak hours for Florida Tech students. Tom Stewart replied by email stating that these students do have scheduled eating times that are not supposed to interfere with peak hours. However, many of them are athletes who are not always able to make those times because of practice which may run later than scheduled. Lastly, Geoffrey Goutallier had questions concerning the “red” parking spaces reserved for those cars with Florida Tech license plates. He asked how was parking going to be enforced, who could park there. Anyone with a
Florida Tech tag, whether faculty, staff, or student, is able to park there. The enforcement and penalty have not been worked out at this time.

Monica opened discussion on new projects for the committee to focus on for this semester. Several interesting ideas where discussed: 1) Bob Taylor mentioned that the final exam schedule may need reworking. Last fall his students were scheduled to take his final from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. He stated that many of them also had final exams at 8 a.m. the next morning, and he thought this unfair to the students. Monica commented that it might be worthwhile to invite someone from the Registrar’s office to our next meeting to discuss the schedule. 2) Carolyn Fausnaugh brought up the issue of “ancient” phones still in existence in faculty offices. Amy Williams followed up with comments on having to use different instructions for accessing the mail/message system depending on the phone you use. Should we expect uniform phones and service across campus? 3) Frank Leslie brought up the pay issue for adjunct faculty and wondered if there was a trend to hire more at Florida Tech. There was additional discussion on the use of part-time or adjunct faculty for on-line courses. This ultimately led to conversation about staff wage compression. Tom Stewart offered that it is harder to attract potential employees at the rate Florida Tech pays because of wage compression. He also noted that many staff foregoes benefits because they cannot afford to pay for them. It was decided that a representative from Human Resources should be invited to a future meeting to talk about these issues. 4) Based on the recent weather damage at Embry Riddle, Mark Ritter brought up the possibility of working with them to come up with a memorandum or agreement that each university would help each other in time of need.

The meeting finished with mention of future meeting times:
Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Mar. 13th at 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Apr. 17th at 9 a.m.
As usual they will be held in the 7th floor conference room of the Crawford Building.