

Extension Educator Council
September 10, 2008
Taylor Hall 9:30-12:00

Present: Julia Peterson, Nancy Bradford-Sisson, Lisa Towson, Hugh Christian, Jim Grady, Chuck Hersey, Geoffrey Njue, Sharon Cowen

The meeting was called to order by Julia at approximately 9:45 in Taylor Hall. May minutes were approved as written.

Awards - The 2008 award process was reviewed. It was agreed that an EEC goal for next year should focus on increasing the numbers of staff nominated for awards. Program Leaders, particularly, know staff's work and can be instrumental in getting staff recognized through nominations. In terms of the Presidential Award of Excellence, it was suggested that staff may not be interpreting the award criteria as applicable to county-based staff. Staff should be reminded that all staff employed by UNH work on behalf of the university and therefore should be considered for the nominations. Also, UNH-CE has not nominated candidates for the NE Directors' Award for some time.

Unionization - Nothing has been heard about the staff unionization attempt for some time.

Salary Increases - 2008 salary increases were implemented after deliberation of Jim, Hugh, and the Program Leaders. Leadership worked to achieve equity in staff salaries, in terms of comparable salaries for comparable experience and education.

Healthy UNH – UNH-CE will take an active role in the UNH-wide initiative. Sharon Cowen will be the EEC representative.

Civil Rights – Jim indicated that UNH-CE staff is very committed to the spirit and intent of the law. Efforts by Hillsborough and Strafford County staff before and during the review by USDA were acknowledged.

Parental Leave – current benefits for birth parents and adoptive parents are different. EEC will submit a proposal to HR to make leave benefits the same for both situations.

UNH Strategic Planning Meeting – Lisa will be EEC representative.

EEC Elections – Geoffrey and Lisa are finished with their EEC terms. Lisa will not run again; Geoffrey will run. We need to have nominations to fill one Extension Educator position from Natural Resources and one from Family and Youth. It is unclear where Community Development fits into the parameters of the EEC representation.

Proposal for Civil Unions – only one person has responded.

EEC 2009 Dates – March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, November 12. A tri-council retreat will take place in January, date to be determined.

Updated EEC Goals – Goal 1, increase communication with staff, was discussed. It is important that EEC have a web presence, with rules, minutes, and membership clearly available for Educators to find. We will discuss this issue again in January.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted by

Sharon Cowen