University _of_ Idaho
Staff Council

Staff Council Talking Points

Date: Oct. 14, 2020

Recording of Zoom meeting

Archive of all Staff Council meeting agendas, recordings and minutes

Staff Council met on Oct. 14, 2020, for an all-Zoom meeting.

Staff Member of the Month

Staff Member of the Month for October 2020 is Elise Kokenge, Administrative Assistant II, Natural Resources & Society and Environmental Science. Amy Kingston, Academic Publications Editor in the Registrar's Office, nominated Elise, saying, "Elise always has a positive attitude, no matter what else is happening at the university. When I get in touch with her about an issue and she doesn't know the answer, she is quick to find out and get back to me. She displays empathy for other people's circumstances and places a high priority on accuracy and thoroughness, which shows clearly in the quality of her work. I always smile when my phone rings and it's Elise on the other end of the line."

Kashable

Brian Foisy, VP of Finance and Administration, and Brandi Terwilliger, Director of Human Resources, gave some background about the new Kashable loan benefit. The benefit was initiated at the request of U of I employees for a loan program. As of Oct. 14, fifteen employees had utilized the program. The University of Idaho receives no financial benefit or kick-back from the program. Note that financial counseling is available in the Employee Assistant Program.

Annual Evaluations

Currently, all evaluations require a signature by the area VP or a designee. Brandi Terwilliger asked for Staff Council input on whether to continue this practice, to only require an executive signature if the evaluation is above or below "meets expectations," or to remove the executive signature requirement.

Healthy Vandals Update

Emily Tuschhoff, SC Operations Officer, gave a Healthy Vandal update.

1. Healthy Vandals Campaign – there has been some complacency seen among the students regarding COVID precautions. The current focus is on reminding the U of I community about the campaign. Staff can help re-promote the campaign by refreshing signs in offices if they are looking worn.
2. Only 30% of staff requested to take a surveillance COVID test did. If you receive an email inviting you to take a test for surveillance purposes, please do so.
3. Flu shot clinic scheduled for Oct. 19 filled up in advance. The university is working on adding additional campus clinics. Remember that you can get a flu shot for free at any local pharmacy through your U of I plan.

COVID-19 Advisory Committee

Elaina McIntosh-Perry reports the following items:

1. The committee is requesting that U of I leadership add greater detail to the U of I COVID-19 page. Information to include testing protocols, which groups are being selected for surveillance testing, etc.
2. The committee is requesting of U of I leadership that a dashboard be added to the University's COVID-19 website. Many universities are implementing dashboards; they are a tool for families of students to check in quickly on the campus COVID situation.
3. Spring semester timelines are also under discussion, aiming to determine the best path forward for testing and mitigation strategies.

Elections

Erika Crossland reports that Staff Council needs a member from maintenance/skilled craft/facilities staff, as well as an Idaho Falls Center off-campus staff representative. If you are in one of these categories, consider

[joining Staff Council](#).

Annual Evaluations

Staff Council, in 2020-21, will focus on the following issues:

1. Creating the Staff Council operations manual
2. Conducting a second staff survey about COVID-19
3. Staff awards/morale
4. Self-care and mental health
5. Compensation/budget, including market-based compensation and job descriptions/salary adjustments for people who have taken on additional duties.

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