Staff Council Standing Committee Reports for 3-2-10

Benefits – Rita Lemire, Chair

The Benefits Committee discussed how information about the Staff Council is given out at New Employee Orientation. A member will attend a future Orientation and report back to the Committee. We discussed the possibility of contributing a short article to a future Staffline that would focus on a benefit. Eye glass purchases will be looked at and brought forward to the committee as a possible feature.

Employee Environment and Facilities–Michelle Smith, Chair

The committee met with Jim Barr and Mary Provost from Transportation and Parking. The issue of making new and ongoing staff/faculty aware of current transportation options and programs was discussed. Staff feedback was shared. It is expected that TAPSAC meetings will facilitate transparency regarding how parking issues are handled. EEF member Marty Burrows will continue to attend and share information. The Health and Wellness Survey is in the final phase.

Recreation – Marie Tiemann, Chair

The Recreation Committee met on February 18, 2010. Jim reported that the Montreal Casino Trip held on Monday, February 15th was very enjoyable and the border crossing went smoothly and quickly. The Committee began reviewing materials for the binder that is being assembled for procedures and instructions on the various events and activities that the committee oversees. We discussed some of the variables involved in the decision process for the Community Service Awards and will be discussing this topic further to develop a clearer guideline and form. Marie addressed the idea of distributing a survey to staff to obtain feedback for future planning. We will review and discuss the survey at our March meeting. We welcome any ideas or comments for the survey from staff council representatives.

Salary & Budget – Mary Reilly, Chair

The Salary & Budget Committee met on 2/18/10. It reviewed and approved one Emergency Loan Fund request, and agreed to invite Diane Freiheit, Director of Worklife Balance, to its next meeting to learn about the financial planning assistance that EAP provides to the loan applicants that the Committee refers to it. The committee plans to look into other community sources of assistance to which applicants could also be referred. The Committee reviewed and drafted a revised statement of its responsibilities for Article VIII.C.8 of the bylaws, to read as follows: “Salary and Budget Committee: Study salary and related budget issues. Review and establish policy and procedures for the Emergency Loan Fund, and approve loan application exceptions. Make recommendations to the Council concerning the salary raise pool each fiscal year.”