Arts and Sciences Staff Council

10/5/2020 , Monday

11:03am – 11:34am

* The Arts and Sciences Staff Council convened for their first meeting of the 2020-2021 year at approximately 11:03am.
* The following current members were in attendance:
  + Becca Roark (acting chairperson), Chris Gurtcheff (secretary), Christopher Crutchfield, Andrew Fast, Camille Harmon, Luci Lucas, Kyle Manley, Chris Miller, Phyllis Nally, and Alycia Sullivan
* The following prospective members were also in attendance:
  + Catherine Brereton, Emily Cheatham, Katia Davis, David Nealis, Miguel Prieto-Valle, and Suann Reese
* The meeting started with a brief welcome message from Becca Roark, followed by introductions by all current and prospective members, sharing their names, departments, and favorite parts of staff council
* Next, a date and time were determined for the induction of new members, and the nomination of a new leadership team.
  + The inductions and nominations will take place on Tuesday, October 13th at approximately 4:00pm
* One of the charges given to the staff council for this year is to generate content for the monthly staff newsletter, specifically the ‘Staff Spotlight’ section
  + The first spotlight was on Secretary Chris Gurtcheff
  + All members of the council will be submitting photos and interesting facts to Becca and Chris. These submissions will serve as ‘backups’ if the council is unable to find a non-council staff member willing to participate, or if a participant falls through last minute
  + Becca is gathering a full list of staff in the college, and Chris will be building a generator to determine who will be featured each month
* The floor was then opened to all member to discuss potential October party/event ideas:
  + Interesting ideas that are being held on to for a future month:
    - Traditional Bingo and Quarantine Bingo
      * Many of the elements for bingo were built in March at the beginning of the pandemic, making it a quick and easy option to implement
    - Staff ‘happy hour’, ‘introduce your children hour’, and ‘introduce your pet’ hour
      * Similar events have gone very well for the University Staff Senate, but there were concerns over staff turnout and engagement outside of business hours for our college
    - (Icebreaker/Networking) Scavenger Hunt
      * Especially for our newer staff members, an event like this would allow you to meet other staff members and get to know more about them. Some ideas included:
        + Find a Staff Member who has worked here more than 15 years
        + Find someone in attendance who has lived outside the U.S.
        + Find someone who has more than three pets
  + Current front-runner idea for October
    - Halloween costume content
      * In past years, the staff council has hosted an in-person costume contest and chili cook-off, but this isn’t feasible amidst the pandemic
      * Instead of just one category, three ideas were proposed: Individual Costume (framed in a Zoom shot), Best Pet Costume, and Best Decorated Home
        + Camille has volunteered to make trophies
      * Details will be sent to all staff on the 13th (following creation of a new leadership team)
      * Submissions will be due to the staff council by the morning of Monday the 26th
      * Chris will quickly generate a Microsoft Forms survey of all submissions
      * Staff will have until the close of business on the 29th to vote for their favorites
      * Winners will be announced asynchronously on the 30th
* Having no more ideas for events, and no more business to attend to, the council session concluded at 11:34am