February 28, 2007

Present: Linda Granko, Mel Hunt, Brother Richard Lemberg, Robert Mallon, Janie Minguillon, Cyndie Paul, Sharon Radcliff, Linda Rose, Sharon Sobotta, Marty Storti

Not Present: Mark Chiarucci, Victoria Davis, Marcy Bowie, Robin Cimino, Kami Gray, Leslie Welty

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM.

The meeting began with a demonstration of the Women’s Empowerment Model of self-defense led by Joanna Snawder and Kory Hayden, who were assisted by four undergraduates who had taken their Jan Term course. The Women's Empowerment Model is based upon a combination of awareness, assertiveness and, when necessary, physical defense. The students demonstrated some of the skills they had learned and offering the training to staff and to entering female students was discussed.

Following the Open Forum, the Staff Committee went into a General Meeting session.

Approval of Minutes: Linda Granko moved and Brother Richard Lemberg seconded the approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2007 meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair and Chair Elect Report: Marty Storti reported on the meeting he and Leslie Welty had with Pete Michell, Finance and Emily Elliot, Human Resources.

- The Smoking Policy has been drafted and will be circulated for comment soon with the goal to include it in the revised Staff handbook. - The analysis of the health plans that staff and faculty signed up for in 2007 has been complicated in part by issues with the data as entered by the contractor and since even after the open enrollment period births, marriages, new hires and other factors make current enrollment a shifting target. Staff Council will get a report when the analysis is completed. - Schedule of the remaining Staff Council meetings for the academic year is posted online. - Nominations for the Women of Saint Mary’s College panel for the next open forum were made and Sharon Sobotta agreed to follow up with the nominees. It was noted that the session should be well advertised to ensure attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Granko distributed a copy of the February Treasurer’s report. The report of filed with these minutes.

Committee Reports: 
By-Laws: No report.
Climate: No report.

Compensation and Benefits: No report.

Staff Development: No new report.

Elections: Linda Granko reported that planning for the 2007 election has begun and she is seeking access to the online election materials that were used in the 2006 election. The Committee hopes to have an announcement for nominations out soon, as the results of the election should be announced at the Staff Luncheon on April 5th.

Technology Committee: No new report.

Old Business:
None

New Business:

Linda Granko proposed using some of the available staff council funds to provide prizes at the Staff Luncheon in April. As prizes, the money is NOT reported as income, unless the prize has value in excess of $600. Discussion ensued and the concept was accepted, with the amounts and number of prizes to be determined once all the commitments of the Staff Council have been established, including those related to the May Staff Council Retreat.

Marti Storti asked the current Staff Council members reflect on what elements of the Staff Council could be improved or built upon during his upcoming term as Chair. For example, should the terms be increased from two to three years, in parallel with the Faculty Senate positions?

Linda Granko moved and Linda Rose seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Submitted by Marcy Bowie