I. Call to Order

In the stead of the Council Chair Michael Viola (absent due to conflict in schedule), Chair-elect Sarah Vital called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. Role Call

Committee secretary Claudine Roselle Puente took roll.

III. Audience Participation – Open Forum

The Open Forum session was given to Emily Elliott and members from the Human Resources Department to inform the council about the Assessment Pool e-mail sent by Pete Michell. That email indicated that $100,000 was allocated to increase staff salaries for those who received promotions or for positions that were reclassified.

It was asked why the pool for increasing salaries was not used for reinstating hours for those who had hours reduced. Emily Elliott stated a few reasons. 1) The staff/faculty reductions were a strategic design based on the build on strength plan, and not just financial considerations; 2) In order to keep Faculty and Staff balanced (Adjunct faculty members were not called back, but the Rank and Tenure process continued); 3) $100,000 would actually not go very far at all in reinstating reduced hours.

Emily Elliott stated that although they do their best to keep everyone informed about an employee’s departure, they are not required to share any information as to why someone has left the college, due to the purpose of confidentiality. A suggestion was made for each employee to make an announcement in their voicemail, or to update their e-mail responses. HR suggested that Staff Council should encourage that.
IV. Approval of the September minutes and Secretary’s Report

Minutes of the September 2009 meeting were distributed. Carol Firestone motioned and Ryan Lamberton seconded to approve the September 2009 minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Treasurer’s Report

Annalisa Schienbein distributed the latest financial figures for the Staff Council budget. We are still at $4,140.00. However, we are still awaiting word from Staff Activities.

VI. Chair and Chair-Elect Report

a. More committee work for Campus Facility Committee – sustainability of buildings on campus. We need a staff council representative to become a part of the committee. Sally Jamison volunteered to represent Staff Council for Campus Facility Committee.

b. Shared mission events will have vanpool from Rheem to the Main Campus. If it works, we can broaden more on Wednesdays.

c. The Staff Awards Luncheon will take place in February, instead of October. There were lots of clerical issues as to why it’s not in October. In addition we will have our Holy Thursday Luncheon unlike last year.

d. Michael Viola announced (via Sarah Vital) that WASC will be in the Library for the week of October 26, 2009. There will be an open meeting for Staff Council members on October 29, 2009 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in Galileo Hall. Staff Council Members were advised to check for e-mails from Beth Dobkin in regards to WASC.

VII. Old Business

a. No new business to report.

VIII. New Business

a. All Staff and Faculty members have been encouraged to use Google Calendar, which has been approved as a Campus wide calendar system for the College. Implementation will begin late Fall or in the Spring. There will be some training sessions available to those who are not familiar with Google Calendar.

IX. Adjournment

Ryan Lamberton moved and Natalie McKosker seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudine Roselle Puente, Secretary
October 12, 2009