



Campus Update August 2008

Budget Crisis and Planning

Staff Assembly has become a critical partner with the campus in dealing with the budget crisis. With significant state fund reductions, the campus has sought ways to involve the entire campus community, including the staff in determining solutions. Following meetings with Staff Assembly and the campus' Administrative Management Group (ADMAN), the campus established two open sessions to inform staff and gather feedback on ways to deal with the funding shortfall. This included creating and online public posting for ideas. Staff Assembly has responded to the formal plans, met with campus budget planners, and plans to be an integral part of the process by participating in the review of the online suggestions provided by UCD staff. We plan on establishing one of our volunteer positions to focus on the budget issues for the campus.

Strategic Planning

Following the development of last year's strategic plan, Staff Assembly hopes to start an annual process by reviewing its plans in September and updating by October for our fall quarterly campus meeting. The plan held many of the ideals and goals for the organization in the fall and early winter months. However, we face significant new challenges we were not aware of at the time including the budget crisis. The budget impact affects all of our programs and changes what UCD staff consider as important. As an advocacy group, we intend to review our strategic plan in light of the changes in the environment and hopefully establish a current year plan in conjunction with the strategic plan.

Development Opportunities

During our quarterly meeting with the Chancellor and Provost, we had provided an update on our fundraising efforts for our scholarships. The Chancellor suggested that we follow up with our Development Office for their assistance. Staff Assembly met with Paul Prokop, Senior Executive Director of Development to discuss development opportunities for staff. Staff Assembly will be working with Paul to be listed on the Universities Development website and to be able to have the opportunity to receive gifts through the online giving campaign. In addition, we were referred to the Student Affairs Development Officer for possible partnership to develop the staff scholarship for dependents program. We have also requested to be included in the Centennial Campaign planned for next year. We are very excited to have this opportunity and hope to see an increase in funding for staff programs through giving and charitable donations.

Sponsorship Drive

In our continued efforts to promote and expand our scholarship and discount programs, Staff Assembly has been working very hard on our sponsorship drive. Our goal is to create partnerships with local vendors to provide UC Davis Staff with special discounts and/or services and to increase funding for our scholarship programs. We currently have ten new partners and are excited to continue to work on this program.

Staff Dependent Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee reviewed applications for the Staff Dependent scholarships and have selected two recipients. They will be presented with their scholarship at our fall meeting on October 13, 2008.

Citation for Excellence

This year, Staff Assembly made a couple of changes to the selection process of our Citation for Excellence Program. The changes are as follows: All nominees who meet the minimum criteria for recognition will be recognized with a certificate and an invitation to the Citation for Excellence award ceremony at the Chancellor's Residence but, one distinguished Citation for Excellence Award will be given in each category. The distinguished Citation for Excellence recipients will receive a plaque with a picture of them with the Chancellor for their keepsake and a perpetual plaque that will be displayed at the Alumni Center. Staff Assembly has made these changes in order to recognize one outstanding individual and team each year while still allowing for a general recognition of excellent contributions provided by many UC Davis staff members.

Thank Goodness for Staff

Our TGFS Picnic was held on May 7, 2008 at our very own Shield's Grove Arboretum. The event was a great success! Over 5,000 attended! Staff Assembly was pleased to have Buckhorn cater for our event this year. The menu consisted of Char Roasted Tri-Tip sandwiches, Granny Smith Apple Coleslaw, Baked Beans and Assorted Fresh Baked Cookies. The event also included our very own TGFS Idol Competition and expanded Vendor Showcase. We look forward to our next TGFS Celebration!

Campus update contact: Alyssa Varela, aavarela@ucdavis.edu