Minutes – OS meeting 9/19/12

10:30 – 11:30

Frances Bean opened the meeting and welcomed everyone –

1st speaker: Jen Frank. Jen is the new Emergency Manager for PSU. She is working to help the university prepare for emergencies. This involves redoing the response protocol, which is outdated. She will be going from dept to dept. doing trainings and a conducting a needs assessment survey. She expects this process to take several years.

Committee reports:

Fran asked all the committees to give updates:

1. Scholarship: The committee decided to stop doing the bake sale and focus all their efforts on the festival of trees. They are hoping to start early this year with tree commitments.
2. Nominating committee: no report
3. Professional Development: So far, 3 PATs and 4 OS have been approved for Prof. Dev. $. It is $500 per person.
5. Faculty: Report on recent faculty meeting
6. Parking Committee: Discussed new parking kiosk near central lodge = 25cents/hour. This is being well utilized. It has 48 spots and is solar powered.
7. PAT: Discussed PBLG leadership team meeting topics - education quality, strategic plan, SPPC, salary analysis and telecommuting policy.
8. Welcoming Committee: 6 new hires over the summer. They will be invited to lunch and given a tour next Wednesday.
9. PBLG: Committee discussed the PSU strategic plan, which expires this year. They will be working on the strategic plan this year and will seek input through surveys and forums.

President Steen spoke about enrollment and state funding. She noted that enrollment for NH in-state residents is down (by 200 students) - largely due to reduced financial support from the state. As a percentage of the overall budget, the NH’s contribution has gone from 13% to 6% of the total. PSU needed to increase tuition this year to make up the shortfall.

President Steen discussed our advocacy efforts with the Legislature. They are proposing that the Legislature restore full funding to PSU and, in exchange, PSU will agree to freeze tuition rates for the next 2 years. She met with the 5 Gubernatorial candidates to discuss this proposal. So far, this proposal has been well-received.

We have had 2 favorable outcomes with the Legislature so far this year. Two bills that would likely have had a negative impact on PSU – a bill that would allow guns on campus and a bill to reduce USNH system services - did not pass.
PSU received a learning award from the Chronicles of Higher Education – highlights how the PSU campus works to promote student success.

Fran noted that there are committee volunteer openings. She will solicit volunteers via email. She also noted that the Sara Jayne Steen OS award is coming up soon - Nomination forms will be coming soon.

The meeting was adjourned.