

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE RETREAT

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

March 20, 2008

Fortwood Room, University Center

Representatives and Alternates present: Joyce Blevins, Pat Boyer, Sue Carroll, Julia Cronin, Mike Headlee, Jeannie Hill, Valerah Hodges, Ken Hood, Anne Jay, Sandra Jones, Anna Lane, Jack Pitkin, Joyce Powell, Doris Roensch, Jean Walston.

Others in attendance: Dan Webb, Director, Office of Human Resources; Melanie Sadler, Administrative Specialist, Office of Human Resources.

Call to Order: Ms Hodges called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes of the February 21, 2008 meeting.

Guest: John Delaney, Vice Chancellor for Student Development

The Last Lecture Series features popular professors that students select to give what would be their last lecture. Dr. Delaney spoke about a Carnegie-Mellon professor with terminal cancer who has appeared on Oprah. He encouraged members to view the lecture and can be seen on YouTube.

RFP for Health Care

There are a variety of health care services at colleges and universities and UTC has a traditional health care plan. An RFP (request for proposal) will be released soon. Given UTC's size, location and proximity to major health care providers, six elements are included in the RFP:

1. Provide priority health care, including urgent and primary care, for students, staff, and faculty.
2. Provide sports medicine care for athletics programs.
3. Support clinical education programs of Nursing, athletic training, clinical education program in Health & Human Performance, clinical educational requirements for Food & Nutrition.
4. Provide ongoing health education for students, staff, and faculty.
5. Provide opportunity for future urgent and primary health care facility serving the downtown community.
6. Provide a facility to serve as a single location for consolidated health care services.

Dr. Delaney said four of the six elements are ongoing. Students receive health care services as well as faculty and staff; clinical education programs are in place but are scattered; student athletes receive sports medicine care, which is crucial to getting student athletes back into the sport and classroom.

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It is hoped there will be much interest for either a stand-alone unit or partnering with different groups on campus. Dr. Delaney there are several factors that give UTC leverage; 8,300 full-time students with 3,000 of them residing on campus, employees with health insurance, student athletes requiring specialty health care, and UTC's location as Chattanooga's downtown community is evolving.

Ms Hodges asked members if they would use the facility and several agreed that it would be beneficial.

Student Enrollment and Retention

Student Orientation will be held in two weeks for early-bird registrants. Applications have increased both in quantity and quality of students. Coaches are actively recruiting.

Dr. Delaney said he would be meet with the coordinator of the Club Baseball team, which will play UTK's club baseball team at the Lookouts Field soon. He said that UTC should offer things to keep students involved and connected which will help determine whether or not they remain in school.

Students' age continues to drop in part due to new housing built several years ago. The median age is 24-25 and there is a delicate balance in serving the traditional student ages 18-22 and also being a metropolitan university. Graduate students are looking at ease of access for primary services such as ID card. During UPRAC, there were conversations of doing more with additional staff as well as extending daytime hours to better accommodate students. He acknowledged that it was a challenge from an HR perspective to flex schedules and priorities.

Adjournment

The University Center was evacuated due to a bomb threat in Grote Hall. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

The ERC will meet April 17th in the Southern Writer's Room, Lupton Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Sadler
Administrative Specialist
Office of Human Resources