Staff Assembly Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2025, 3:15 – 4:15 PM

**2025-2026 Staff Council Members:**

* Lindsey Bartlett – Director of Counseling Services
* Maureen Butler – Executive Assistant to the Provost
* Kerry Cole - Director of Graduate Student Recruitment and Business Development
* Justin Dolan – Director of Facilities Management
* Beth Gionfriddo - Associate Director of the Career & Professional Development Center
* Katie Laquidara - Director of Events & Campus Visit Experience, Admissions
* Kristen Malinowski-Paine - Director, Academic Center for Excellence and Support and International Programs
* Jessica Mriglot - Director of Graduate Enrollment and Student Success
* Janet Newman – Associate Director of Athletics for Student-Athlete Success
* Yajaila Taft - Staff Accountant, Financial Operations

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**PC Report** – President Pieczynski

* Thankful for the start of the staff council and how it has helped support staff
* Campus wide meeting is coming up on September 9
* We are in a multi-year, multi-million-dollar operating deficit
* We will start the fall semester with under 1,000 enrolled students
* Retention is looking very strong for returning students
* LEAP and First to the Herd = 110 early accepted students
* Undergraduate applications for Fall 2026 are also running ahead at this point in time
* Cultural task force – formal report was submitted to Bill last Thursday
  + Reviewing with co-chairs Kristan Mallet and Brian McCoy
  + A summary will be shared at the campus-wide meeting in September
  + The outgoing and incoming chair and vice chairs of the Board will also receive the results
* Chair of the Board, Randy Becker and Vice Chair, Carolyn Burke, are stepping aside from their roles (will remain on the board)
  + Beginning in October, David Bedard and Jaime Boisvert will assume the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively
* A draft of the strategic plan pillars will be shared with the campus shortly
  + The draft will be shared with the board in October
  + Dr. Jean Beaupre is leading the charge of the strategic planning process
  + The October board meeting is October 17 – 18, 2025
* Moving forward, a rotating PC member will kick-off the staff assembly meetings to share updates, answer questions, etc.

**Agenda Items**

1. **Staff Council Updates—KMP and Janet**

* Summarize Staff Council July retreat – elected executive officers and set our goals
* 2025-2026 Executive Officers
  + Chair: Janet Newman
  + Vice Chair: Kristen Malinowski-Paine
  + Secretary: Katie Laquidara
  + Treasurer: Yajaila Taft
* Goals for the Year - Over the next 12 months, the Staff Council aims to:

1. Support a collaborative and connected community.
2. Support the staff experience.
3. Support the College in its strategic goals.

* Staff council Hub page will house the minutes and include photos from our events
* Subcommittees – Volunteers Wanted!
* Staff Engagement (Social Committee) with Beth Gionfriddo
* Onboarding Committee - TBD
* Budgeting & Shared Resources with Justin Dolan
* Policy Writing & Revision Committee with Maureen Butler

1. **New Employee Intros - All**
   * Welcome!
   * Tyler Dippel – Digital Marketing & Social Media Specialist for the MarComm department
   * Jake Laroche – Assistant Director of Admissions for Office of Admissions
   * Lucas Couture – Human Resources Coordinator for Human Resources
2. **Community Coffee hours – Averie Bye-Dickerson**
   * Herd Hangout coffee hours that will happen monthly from September – March
   * Every building will host one – check the calendar sent with the minutes 😊
3. **Student Involvement Events—Cari Cyr**
   * September 11 is Casino Night – please sign up to volunteer
   * An email will go out with volunteer opportunities
4. **Staff Engagement - Beth Gionfriddo**
   * Staff and Faculty Athletic Game attendance (fall games determined so far)
   * You can also let us know if you want to opt into the calendar invite that is sent from the staff council
   * If you attend 6 or more games, you will get a surprise piece of swag (hopefully)
   * Bringing back Bison book club – form is coming to opt in to it!

**Open Forum**

* Key Event Dates
  + Monday, August 25 – Work Study Fair (CPDC)
  + Wednesday, September 3 from 2 -4pm – Dress for Success Event (CPDC)
    - Feel free to bring in more donations if you have them!
  + Wednesday, September 9 from 2:00 – 3:30 – Business by the Numbers Fair
  + Sunday, October 19 – Fall Open House (Admissions)

*Please continue to use the anonymous reporting form on Hub.Nichols.edu (Staff Council tab under Departments) to share ideas, concerns, and feedback.*

*Staff can also email Staff Council at* [*staffcouncil@nichols.edu*](mailto:staffcouncil@nichols.edu)*.*

At the conclusion of the meeting, please join us at the Bison Den for our **August Social Hour** gathering! We hope to see you there to celebrate the start of the new academic year.

Next Staff Spotlight for September Assembly – Academic Advising!