Government Relations Committee
Notes
Thursday, August 29th, 1:30pm-2:30pm
Faculty Staff Club

Attendance: Gina Urias-Sandoval, Joanne Kuestner, Jarrett Hines-Kay, Kathy Turner, Matt Muñoz, Marc Saavedra

I. Approval of Minutes
   Approved

II. Introductions

III. Overview of Committee Charge

   The Government Relations Committee formulates, advocates for and helps implement activities, literature and programs educating the governmental and general communities as to staff issues and proposes possible remedies to problems generated by those issues. The committee also tracks and reports on legislative issues that affect the university staff, and, where possible as the legislative process allows, makes recommendations to the Staff Council concerning those issues. The committee also helps plan and implement avenues to encourage and support staff in exercising their civic rights and responsibilities.

   All constituent and Staff Councilor comments need to be funneled through the chair of this committee and he/she will relay those messages to Marc Saavedra and the Government Relations Office.

IV. Review of Legislative Priorities

   Marc and Matt discussed the development of the legislative priorities and they would have a draft by our September meeting. Staff will play a vital roles in developing their agenda.

   Some current reviews: RPSPs

   Current priorities in draft mode:
   - Compensation
   - Lottery Solvency
   - Obligation Bonds
   - Funding Formula

   This is going to be something that needs to be further developed to support UNM’s best interests.

V. Any Issues
Marc and his office will have a draft of the Legislative priorities by our next meeting. Marc would like input from Staff Council on the above areas to help with their request to the State. We discussed compensation as being the area where Staff Council could be part of the discussion. Committee members were asked to get the word out and hear their constituents feedback on these particular issues. Renee will present at next Exec and SC monthly meeting to encourage folks to find out about the voice of staff at UNM and see where Staff can play an important role in the planning.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 26th, 2013