**Forum Meeting Minutes September 19, 208**

**Attendees:** Chris Dallager, Melanie Cashin, Shawn Galdeen, Joe Hennen, Aimee Fisher, Tom Baraniak, Russ Bauer, Karina Sierra, Kendra Strode, Lee Clark, Aaron Chaput, Lanhao Tang

**Benefits Committee:** Met last Monday, going through renewal, there will be premium increase, exploring different plan models, looking at more cost-sharing options, what would have least impact on college. Banned from only offering one plan and banned from providers like ReTrace. Anyone who is Medicaid eligible has to have non-HSA option available. Question: Northfield School District premiums went down. Response: Depends on member utilization. We’re self-insured, so the plan is set up to go down, depending on our use of services. Hope to be in better spot in not-too-distant future. We’d be paying more if we’d not moved to self-insured. Stop aging. ;) Plug for the Wellness Program. EAP could be better advertised.

**Budget Committee:** Met first time yesterday for academic year. Half of membership turned over. Covered introduction to Budget Committee cycle. July-to-July fiscal year. Budget planning cycle is March-to-March. Request for suggestions of people the committee should talk to about health insurance, salary, and budget. Question: Were there discussions of belt-tightening? Can we have a say in where that money might come from? Response: Shawn is our voice, so please pass along anything Forum members want to him. Because of the way scheduled endowment draw works, etc. it’s unlikely we’ll see real effect on college’s budget until 1-2 years after recession. Budget Committee is not responsible for conversations about reducing budgets.

**Campus Design:** No meetings yet this year. Spring is the busy term prepping for summer projects.

**College Council:** Meets next Monday. Kendra is quite new. Recommending ideas for policies that are not academic or co-curricular. Question: What exactly goes to College Council and how is that decided? Years ago, most big decisions had to be presented to the council.

**Special Events:** Coffee hour set for November 20th. Office crawl: SAO, OIIL, OHP, Security… Planning a time in October to visit offices. Question: Will we do Halloween office decorating? Yes!

**Bookstore:** No report. International power adapters. Can those be made available?

**Circulation Planning:** Meeting first week of October. Focused on movement around campus: cars, bikes, pedestrians, deliveries, etc. 1-3 year, 3-5 year, and 5+ year plans. SHAC: Access to adequate access for ambulances to their area. Not currently anyone from Disability Services on committee. Chris will follow up with Joe.

**CEDI:** Need a Forum representative. Meet every other Monday, 3-4pm. Could we have a temporary fill? Gauging interest might take some time. Chris can certainly share information. Quick turnaround—reach out to people to gauge interest/seek nominations. Send out meeting to Staff-Forum to express interest. Get something out today. Seek clarity on the length of the appointment. Mimi de Rosas.

**Meeting with Fred Rogers:** Recession preparation, increase in numbers of people wanting to know why we don’t have enough money (given endowment), Science Complex updates/budget/maintenance, deferred maintenance problems, computer capacity/software licenses, adding new features without infrastructure support, what is guiding principle for decisions made on campus (versus decisions not made), what do we want community and students to think about us as an institution

**Wellness @ Carleton:** Working with HR, insurance, Rec Center, using vacation time.

Sick leave sharing when people leave positions. We are paid for vacation. Can we push employees to take vacation they have? SAC has sick-leave sharing. Strong wellness component in ensuring departments with essential staff to have vacation. Would faculty or union staff be interested in partnering? Can we present models? Concerns about pay grade discrepancies. Can we invite someone from HR to discuss reasoning? Or create subcommittee to discuss with SAC and Faculty? We have better benefits, so is that why? Can we just have level benefits?