Staff Council Members 2019-2021

Michael Torries
Past—Chair 2019
WVU Staff Council

We cannot move forward until we address the past. Many new and exciting ideas were created under Michael’s leadership. Thankfully, Michael will continue to serve on the WVU Staff Council in the upcoming years, helping to ensure we continue advocating for our peers at WVU. We want to acknowledge his dedication and foresight in handling staff council matters during his term as Chair. Michael is a true definition of a person who does “Go Beyond” at WVU.

We would be amiss if we didn’t show our deep appreciation to both Lisa Martin and Nancy Bremar who served in the Chair position during 2017-2019 Staff Council timeframe.

Lisa Martin
Nancy Bremar

Service  Curiosity  Respect  Accountability  Appreciation
Staff Council promotes a positive work environment for all Classified Employees through effectively advocating for our peers in the University's decision making process. The West Virginia University Staff Council was created to provide the classified staff employees of WVU a means of conveying their concerns on employee-employer relations. This council was formed with recognition that all matters at WVU are governed by state law, by the WV Higher Education Policy Commission, and West Virginia University Rules.

Over the past two years, WVU Staff Council Members have dealt with a massive amount of changes in the higher education realm. This publication is a snap shot in the history of the 2017-2019 members regarding the matters that changed the University, ongoing initiatives, completed initiatives, upcoming issues and future ideas for the remaining and incoming members for the 2019-2021 WVU Staff Council.

We will miss some of our colleagues from past years and our hope is they will remain active as their time allows.
WELCOME TO THE 2019-2021
WVU STAFF COUNCIL TEAM

Andrew Goodman
eReserves & Multimedia Wise Library

Angela Henderson
Dept. World Languages,
Literature & Linguistics

Tiffany Hughes
Housing & Residence Life

Kevin Patrick
University Registrar Office

Charlene Renee Villers
Extension Service

Brian Weimar-FS
Maintenance L5

Dianne Stewart
Office of Admissions/Undergrad Admissions

Service  Curiosity  Respect  Accountability  Appreciation
"Above all"... We helped our fellow classified staff employees along the way.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LEGISLATION**
- Freedom Agenda
- Code of Conduct
- Campus Carry Proposal / Campus Safety

**COMPENSATION**
- Bi-weekly pay
- 2016 WVU 40 million deficit
- Salary increases 3-2018 and 6-2018
- Employee Performance Review
- Sodexo / Dining Services Transition

**TUITION ASSISTANCE**
- Elimination of college fees for staff
- Classified employees served

**BLOOD DRIVE PARTNERSHIP**
- Up to 4 Blood Drives held for Red Cross per year

**ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

Service  Curiosity  Respect  Accountability  Appreciation
WELFARE
Employee Appreciation certificates for years of service
Back to School supply drive
Winter coat drive
Food pantry options
Safety on campus

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING
Updates to PRT service
Changes to Mountaineer Station
Partnership with WVU Hospitals on parking lot/garage

TOBACCO FREE TASK FORCE
Worked on sustainable ways to curb smoking on campus
Focus on education to quit smoking
Policy enforcement on campus—hire new position

American Red Cross
Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood Drive
West Virginia University Staff Council
Conference Rooms 6115 & 6117
One Waterfront Place
Morgantown

Staff Tuition Assistance Deadlines:
June 17
Staff Council Tuition Assistance Application due for Fall 2019 Semester

November 18
Staff Council Tuition Assistance application due for Spring 2020 Semester

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Service  Curiosity  Respect  Accountability  Appreciation
Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas. Critical thinking has been the subject of much debate and thought since the time of early Greek philosophers such as Plato and Socrates. It has continued to be a subject of discussion into the modern age, for example the ability to recognize fake news.

Critical thinking might be described as the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking. Critical thinking requires you to use your ability to reason. It is about being an active learner rather than a passive recipient of information.

Critical thinkers rigorously question ideas and assumptions rather than accepting them at face value. They will always seek to determine whether the ideas, arguments and findings represent the entire picture and are open to finding that they do not.

Critical thinkers will identify, analyze and solve problems systematically rather than by intuition or instinct. Leaving the emotions out of the equation.

Someone with critical thinking skills can:

- Understand the links between ideas.
- Determine the importance and relevance of arguments and ideas.
- Recognize, build and appraise arguments.
- Identify inconsistencies and errors in reasoning.
- Approach problems in a consistent and systematic way.
- Reflect on the justification of their own assumptions, beliefs and values.
Follow these Do's and Don'ts to earn respect during meetings

**DO:**
- Review the meeting agenda and be sure you understand the objectives/goals of the meeting.
- Prepare for the discussion, by conducting any necessary research.
- Show up on time or, better yet, a few minutes early.
- Say hello to other attendees and introduce yourself to anyone you don't know.
- Participate in the meeting and pay attention to what's happening.
- Think before you speak – and make sure that what you say is relevant to the topic being discussed.
- Solicit comments and opinions of quiet attendees by asking them for their thoughts.
- Take responsibility for completing (on time) items you’re assigned.

**DON'T:**
- Show up late and then disrupt the meeting with your arrival.
- Interrupt others when they are talking.
- Speak just to hear yourself talk.
- Check emails or voicemails during the meeting.
- Use your computer, unless you are taking meeting notes.
- Lose your temper, yell, or throw things.
- Put down other people's ideas.
- Use any non-verbal communication to show your displeasure with what others are saying, such as crossing your arms across your chest and rolling your eyes or sighing heavily.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." – Henry Ford

**Where do we go from here?**

On the radar for the upcoming year:

1) We have been tasked with finding a way classified staff can engage and assist in student engagement across campus. Classified staff plays an important role in the lives of students. Many of us have contact with students on a daily basis. How might we use that daily contact to create an atmosphere where students want to stay and receive their education from West Virginia University?

2) Bullying in the workplace. What can we communicate out to classified staff to help eliminate unwelcome behaviors before they lead to high risk incidents?

3) Speak with co-workers and discover what issues and items of concern are on their minds. Bring that to the council for discussion.

4) Let's Go Beyond

**Service  Curiosity  Respect  Accountability  Appreciation**