## Bellarmine University Staff Council Meeting Minutes April 17, 2019

Mr. Brian Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and asked if there were any amendments to March's Staff Council meeting; no amendments were requested and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Atkinson began the meeting with a recap of the social events which had taken place over the past few weeks: Basketball Regional Final Game Tailgate in Frazier Hall and Bellarmine Day at the Baseball Game. It was discussed how we could bolster attendance at these events and future events; it was suggested to have area Vice Presidents send out an email giving "their blessing" for an office to attend. The Council also provided positive feedback for Dr. Donovan's idea of having a Bellarmine event off-campus which would be open to family members. An idea of an event does not currently exist, but it would be an event similar to the Alumni Game at the Louisville Bats.

Ms. Angela Rone reported on the University's Collegiality Committee which met at the end of March. Ms. Rone discussed how the initiative would need influential members of the faculty and staff to encourage their peers to attend these events in order for it to be successful. The first official event of the Collegiality Committee will be in the fall semester and will feature a campus event on a certain Friday of each month. It was suggested that the event could involve wine and beer and would be an opportunity for faculty and staff members to spotlight their contributions to the Bellarmine community. It was also suggested for the Faculty Council and Staff Council to have a social event together as a means of leading the charge to bridge the divide.

Mr. Atkinson provided an update on the Staff Council's proposal regarding half day Fridays in the summer. Mr. Atkinson indicated the University was likely receiving a half-day for Kentucky Oaks and a day off for July 5; both of these dates have not been officially announced, but if they occur, they would be announced closer to their occurrence.

The Staff Council picnic will be Wednesday, June 5 in the Campus Quad with Frazier Hall serving as a rain location. It was suggested to see if Sodexo could have a large grill in the Quad to cook hamburgers, veggie burgers and hotdogs in the Quad instead of only serving in the Quad. It was also suggested to request for the dress code to be waived that day to allow employees to wear jeans for the picnic. In previous Council meetings, the idea of collecting donations for a charitable organization has been discussed; at the April meeting it was determined, the collection of items for the Knights Pantry could be better implemented in the Welcome Back Luncheon opposed to Staff Council picnic.

The final order of business was to discuss the University's potential transition from NCAA Division II to Division I. Ms. Pam Stackhouse provided more context to what the transition would entail and what upgrades and renovations would be required as part of the transition. Ms. Stackhouse explained the transition would require an invitation from a Division I conference – which the University has yet to receive – and would require approval by the University's Board of Trustees. If offered an invitation, Bellarmine would begin a four-year process of transition to the new division and would still compete at the Division II level for the first year. In regards to capital improvements, the baseball and softball fields would require the addition of lights for student-athletes to play evening games, which would not conflict with their daytime academic classes. There is potential for other facilities to receive cosmetic upgrades, but nothing major would be required. Individuals are encouraged to attend one of the University's upcoming listening sessions to share any feedback or thoughts on the potential transition.

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Mr. Atkinson ended the meeting thanking everyone for their time.

## In attendance:

Brian Atkinson

**Bridget Babcock** 

Calene Baldwin

Kate Brabandt

Lynn Bynum

Kim Connell

Pat Coons

Sarah Davis

Jeremy Doyle

Bryan Hamann

Angela Rone

Tammy Uchida

Pam Stackhouse

**Emily Werner**