

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 23, 2017 VOLUME 6 ISSUE NO. 16

Board of Trustees Hears from Faculty Union, Approves Changes for Tuition Assistance

Members of the campus community attended the Feb. 22 meeting of the Stockton University Board of Trustees, where the board heard from the faculty union and approved changes to the Tuition Assistance and Tuition Waiver for Employees Procedure.

Over 50 members of Stockton's American Federation of Teachers attended the meeting to ask for support from the board and President Harvey Kesselman in helping to resolve contract negotiations at the state level that have left them working without a contract or raises since 2015.

After asking them all to rise during the public portion of the meeting, Anne Pomeroy, president of the Stockton local and professor of Philosophy, talked about the fundamental role of teachers at the University.

"We are the ones who directly carry out the mission of this University," she said, "We are the ones who transform lives. We are the ones students remember."

Tim Haresign, associate professor of Biology and president of the Council of N.J. State College Locals, which represents faculty at nine four-year state colleges, said there is a "misperception that we're not coming to the table." He said the state's management side of the process did not offer any economic proposals until 14 months after the contract ended.



More than 50 Stockton University faculty members wore blue American Federation of Teachers (AFT) shirts to the Feb. 22 Board of Trustees meeting to continue their efforts to gain statewide support in bargaining for a fair contract.

The board also approved changes to the Tuition Assistance and Tuition Waiver for Employees Procedure (#6161) after a task force benchmarked Stockton's procedures against the procedures of other New Jersey Association of State Colleges and University (NJASCU) schools.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Board of Trustees Hears from Faculty Union, Approves Changes for Tuition Assistance
- Stockton Students and Administration Agree to 'Stockton Safe'
- Lori Vermeulen Hosts Appreciation Party for The Provost Painters
- Assistant Director of Event Services Lindsay McGrath Weds
- Financial Aid Staff Dress as Mount Rushmore for Presidents Day
- University Relations & Marketing Request: Submissions for Themed Programming Events
- Save the Dates

The Office of Employee Relations, part of the executive branch, represents the state in contract negotiations with faculty unions at state colleges and universities.

Kesselman said that he has not seen any of the contract proposals, as that is not his role. "I have made calls in the hope that we can get people to the table," he said, also stating: "We are fighting and will continue to fight on behalf of a fair contract."

But he said that all the other stakeholders have to do what Stockton's faculty has done.

"I could not be more pleased - it's great to see this faculty united, now we've got to get the rest of the state" united, he said.

Continued on next page

BOT Hears from Union, Approves Changes for Tuition Assistance

Continued from previous page

The approved changes raise the annual cap of 12 credits to 20 credits, adding a provision that the classes not be taken during regularly scheduled work time; waive the Transportation and Safety Fee (\$100 per semester), the Non-matriculation Fee (\$50 flat rate per semester) and the Student Life Facilities Fee (\$36.76 per credit); and remove the lifetime cap on credits to allow employees to pursue additional degrees.

Controls will be reviewed to limit the number of Stockton employees in degree programs for balance and to accurately represent the financial health of a program.

The University will now require the completion of the FAFSA form as part of the eligibility process for both the Tuition Waivers for Spouses, Dependents, Couples in a Civil Union and Domestic Partners Procedure (#6164) and the Tuition Assistance and Tuition Waiver for Employees Procedure (#6161). This measure guarantees that employees are able to maximize resources on behalf of their dependents and those employees taking advantage of the Tuition Waiver for their undergraduate degree.

Additionally, the Tuition Waivers for Spouses, Dependents, Couples in a Civil Union and Domestic Partners Procedure (#6164) will extend the benefit to the dependents of part-time employees on a pro-rata basis.

Changes will be made effective July 1. Members of the Tuition Procedure Task Force are: Dawn Channell, office manager in Human Resources; Thomas Chester, director of Human Resources; Robert Heinrich, chief information officer; Scott Huston, director of Information Technology Services; Rodger Jackson, professor of Philosophy and vice president of Stockton Federation of Teachers; Mimi Milazzo, assistant supervisor in the Bursar's Office; Thomas Nolan, associate professor of Physical Therapy; Cindy Norman, professional services specialist in the Office of the Registrar and vice president of Stockton Communication Workers of America; Thomas Roth, bursar; Karen Tierney, associate director of Human Resources; Lolita Treadwell, deputy chief of staff; Chia-Lin Wu, professor of Mathematics; and Andrea Neiderhoffer, retired/former associate director of Budget & Fiscal Planning.

Stockton Students and Administration Agree to 'Stockton Safe'

The Board of Trustees endorsed an agreement between student leaders, President Harvey Kesselman, Executive Vice President Susan Davenport and members of the Cabinet that the University is "Stockton Safe." The measure provides a safe zone for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of immigration status, and was in response to a Student Senate resolution regarding protections for undocumented students.

"The University, to the fullest extent permitted by law, protects the identity and information of all members of the community," said Kesselman.

"Stockton Safe" aligns the University with the actions of the New Jersey Legislature, which last week passed resolutions affirming that college campuses should "continue to serve as a safe zone and resource center for students and their families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination."

The series of protections, many of which are already in place for those who are undocumented, includes additional support and programming to educate the community about immigration rights.

Kesselman said student leaders including Senate President Maryam Sarhan, UBSS President Mahalia Bazile, student Kaltoum Alibrahimi, student trustee Cristian Moreno and alternate student trustee Ike Ejikeme "represented their constituents in as articulate and intense a manner as possible and I could not be more proud to be the president of this institution, having students who acted as they did."

In addition, Stockton recently established the [Bias-Free Initiative](#) to provide members of the campus community with educational information regarding bias and harassment awareness and reporting.

Lori Vermeulen Hosts Appreciation Party for The Provost Painters



Provost Lori Vermeulen recently held a staff appreciation paint party for members of the Office of the Provost. The Provost Painters created their masterpieces at Kramer Hall in Hammonton, N.J.

Provost Lori Vermeulen recently held a staff appreciation paint party at Kramer Hall, Stockton's location in Hammonton, where she and 15 staff members painted a beach lighthouse scene.

Vermeulen opted to host an activity for her staff rather than a holiday party during the hustle and bustle of the winter season.

"The activity provided an opportunity for us to spend some time together with no agenda, a chance to get to know each other as people," she said. "It was my 'thank you' to those who work so hard for the Provost's Office all year long. We all have challenging jobs at the University and finding balance is important for everyone's wellbeing."

"A group from the office brainstormed a bit and we all liked the idea of a paint party," said Jeannine Arrigo, of the Provost's Office. "I had been to one elsewhere and enjoyed it, so we decided to look into it. In the meantime, Kramer Hall was scheduling a paint party for one of their Third Thursday community activities. Lori attended the event in mid-December and thought it would be a fun activity, which it was."

The colleagues also chose to host the event at Kramer Hall because "it was a good way ... to become more familiar with Stockton's location in Hammonton," explained Arrigo.

The Provost Painters are pictured above. Top row, from left to right, are: Rummy Pandit, executive director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute for Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism (LIGHT); Tom Grites, assistant provost for academic support services; John Smith, assistant to the provost; Gail Tracy, professional services specialist; Michelle McDonald, assistant provost; Jeannine Arrigo, professional services specialist; Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education; Linda Feeney, director of E-Learning; Provost Lori Vermeulen; Janet Wagner, dean of the School of Business; Carra Hood, assistant provost for Programs & Planning; and Instructor and "Undercover Artist" Lily Doyle. Bottom row: Alex Marino, assistant to the provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites; Robert Gregg, dean of the School of General Studies; Amy Beth Glass, director of Graduate Enrollment Management; Merydawilda Colón, executive director of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement; and Peter Straub, dean of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

Assistant Director of Event Services Lindsay McGrath Weds

Lindsay McGrath, assistant director of Event Services, married Fred Beddiges, an account director of an IT staffing firm, on New Year's Eve at Park Pavilion in Seaside Park, N.J.

"We chose New Year's Eve because we thought it would be a great way to start the year," McGrath said. "Plus, what better night for a celebration with our closest family and friends?"

The couple met in 2002 while studying at Farleigh Dickinson University, but 12 years passed before they even began dating. "We remained friends after graduating, but we both moved out of state," she said. "It wasn't until 2014, when we were both living in New Jersey, that we reconnected and started dating."

The newlyweds reside in Toms River, N.J. with their three dogs.



Lindsay McGrath wed Fred Beddiges in Seaside Park, N.J. this past New Year's Eve.

Financial Aid Staff Dress as Mount Rushmore for Presidents Day

“Hello. I’m George and today is my birthday,” said Jenifer Robin, technical assistant, as she greeted a student on Presidents Day.

Staff members in the Office of Financial Aid dressed in Mount Rushmore National Memorial fashion to celebrate the holiday on Feb. 20.

To complete the facade of Mount Rushmore, Nancy Martorano, assistant director of Financial Aid, dressed as Thomas Jefferson; Kathy Waldron, senior clerk typist, dressed as Teddy Roosevelt; and Angie Velez, assistant director of Financial Aid, dressed as Abraham Lincoln.

The presidential foursome took the opportunity to liven up their office during these last few days in February as they remind students and parents to complete the FAFSA form, which is due by March 1.



Watch Stockton’s
Presidents Day Snapchat Story!



Pictured from left to right are: Jenifer Robin as George Washington; Nancy Martorano as Thomas Jefferson; Kathy Waldron as Teddy Roosevelt; and Angie Velez as Abraham Lincoln.

University Relations & Marketing Request: Submit Your Themed Programming Events

The Office of University Relations & Marketing requests submissions for events organized around monthly and/or themed awareness initiatives.

These events will be grouped and featured on Stockton’s homepage. Currently featured are the University’s events celebrating Black History Month.

Submit any additional themed events, and events celebrating Women’s History Month in March, to StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

Please include the time, date and location for each event, as well as any relevant websites associated with the program.

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb. 27: [15th Anniversary Gala for African American Heritage Museum](#)
- March 2-3: [Matthew Sandusky Speaks](#)
- March 25: [African-American History & Genealogy Symposium](#)
- April 6: [Anna Deavere Smith](#)
- April 22: [Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala](#)

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service?

Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu

