Staff Council Special Session Minutes
October 20, 2011
226 Linville Falls Room, Plemmons Student Union
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. APPROVED

Cathy Ziegler opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to a special, mid-cycle meeting. The only purpose of this meeting is to hear a presentation by Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, Greg Lovins, as to the budget process used to determine ultimate staff and faculty layoffs and position cuts. There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the presentation. Patrick McCoy, Human Resources Director, was available to answer questions, as well. It was noted that 21 people were in attendance.

Greg Lovins thanked the Appalachian staff for working hard and doing a wonderful job even during tough economic times.

With the deep budget cuts the university is facing, the administration’s primary objectives are to:

1) Protect the academic core
2) Protect jobs as best we can

Appalachian State University has taken a $22.8 million reduction in appropriations for this fiscal year. Fortunately, that amount is offset by some revenue increases making the net reduction approximately $14.8 million.

An administrative fee of 2% has been implemented to allow auxiliary units to help pay administrative costs for services from which those units may reap benefits. This action has helped to save jobs by offsetting about $2 million in reductions.

Because many vacant positions have remained unfilled, the number of people who received RIF notices was much less than originally anticipated. Out of approximately 100 state funded SPA positions that were lost, only 14 were filled positions. Of the 14 employees who received RIF notices, 4 plan to take retirement after their severance pay runs out. Six more have either been placed in another position in the university or expect to be placed in the next few months. Broyhill Inn employees are not included in these numbers. They were given a verbal notice in August due to changes with the use of the Broyhill building which is expected to occur during the Fall semester or prior to Spring 2012. Should there be any SPA employees remaining with the Broyhill Inn who have not been reassigned to other departments or accepted another position by the time the Broyhill needs to close at the end of the semester, those employees will then be given a written RIF notice. Once an employee is given a written notice, they have 30 days to obtain a new position on campus before actually leaving their current position.

The number of housekeeping positions has been reduced, resulting in more square footage assigned to each housekeeper. The square footage per staff member is now above the median for universities in the UNC system. Repair and Renovation appropriations have not been received over the last couple of years. Please be patient and understanding as housekeeping staff have greater demands for their services and repairs and renovations are not done as quickly as we would like.

Mr. Lovins’ PowerPoint presentation with details is on the following pages.