**FORWARD Council Meeting for 5-02-22**

1. Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm
2. Members in attendance were:

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|[x]  Kristen Corkhill |
|[x]  Robert Croom |
|[x]  Shunteka Curtis |
|[x]  Neville David  |
|[x]  Tyreece Echols |
|[x]  Kevin Lane |
|[x]  Antwania Massey |
|[x]  Eugene McKinney |
|[x]  Shirley Pace |
|[x]  Chasidy Parks |
|[x]  Walter Putman |
|[x]  Rontai Walker |
|[x]  Maureen Watt-Heron |

Additional persons present: Ms. Britnee Shandor, President Holston

1. ***Approval of last meeting minutes—approved unanimously***
2. ***Open floor for Ms. Echols/Ms. Parks--***Mental health awareness month: Echols discussed event. Working with Major McKinney to secure a space on Newton and Clarkston campuses to host a stress management program. Will need to have flyer created by marketing and promoted. In person events will take place Wednesday May 18 & 25, 2022 from 11:30-12:30. Will also look for opportunities for to engage with Starnes and South DeKalb. They are also looking for ways to promote and use Aspire.
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Ms. Parks talked about campus silos. External customers don’t see the distinction between credit/adult-ed/economic development. Discussed a potential strategy to provide a “menu of services” to external community and how it could benefit the credit side of recruitment. How can we help to upskill their workforce? She worked with Ms. Shandor to deploy a survey to industry advisory boards. Lane and Croom will assist Ms. Parks.

Ms. Parks also showed an illustration comparing Walmart to Dollar General. The main point is that Dollar General can’t typically complete with Walmart for a variety of reasons, but Dollar General offers the same or similar products but in a cheaper, more convenient locations. Expanding the scenario to higher education allows us to imagine GPTC as Dollar General and other higher ed opportunities to be viewed as Walmart. Ms. Parks suggested that we find a better way to appeal to potential students. Mr. Walker and Mr. David agreed to assist Ms. Parks with this initiative.

1. ***Four-day work week***—Mr. David discussed working 40-hour weeks within a 4-day schedule (10-hour work day). Says that there is a lot of work and attention given to mental health issues of students, but not faculty staff. Mr. David poses this as a solution to counter burnout and employee morale issues. Awaiting data from HR on employee attrition. Would like to provide this as a recommendation to President Holston.

Ms. Shandor’s opinion on the topic was solicited by Ms. Parks, which she graciously shared.

A spirited conversation ensued around the topic of employee morale and how to get to its root cause in order to identify a solution.

Forward council will attempt to look deeper at the causes of low employee morale.

President Holston challenged the council to answer these 2 questions:

Who does a four-day work week serve?
What are the core reasons why people have low morale?

1. ***Website***—Website has been updated to include meeting agendas and minutes. The Contact button has also been fixed.
2. **Other New Business**-McKinney recommended forming an ad-hoc committee to look at how we advise students. S. Curtis volunteered to assist.
Ms. Shandor informed us that Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and QEP committee is also looking into student advising. Recommended that Forward Council engage with SA and QEP committee.
3. ***Next meeting***—2:00 pm, Monday, June 6, 2022 in Newton. Room TBD

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Rontai Walker