

Annual Report 2009-2010
Reporting: Aug. 2009 – July 2010
Work Life Advisory Committee (WLAC)

MISSION:

Our mission is to promote personal/professional balance at Washington State University for students and employees. The Committee provides access to information about services and resources available to WSU employees to assist them when their professional lives intersect or overlap with their personal lives and assesses work-life concerns of employees and advocates for changes needed in university policies.

Following is the membership list:

Faculty (3)

Matt Bumpus
Katherine Lovrich
Karen Weathermon

Alternates (any campus, any level)

Stefany Unda
Debra Spidal
Carly Morse

Vancouver (1)

Tracy Tachiera
Julie Dewitt-Kamada

Administrative/Professional (3)

Becky Morton
Danielle Engelhardt
Maria Ortega

Spokane (1)

Patti Petersen

Student (3)--at least one graduate student

Anthony Smith--Undergraduate Student
Ian Stewart--GPSA
Vacant--Graduate Student

Civil Service Staff (3)

Jim Pogue
Teri Ockwell
Vida Jones

Ex-Officio

Theresa Elliot-Cheslek, HRS
Alicia Saldivar, APAC Liaison
Laura Kinslow, Recorder
Zami Wilson, HRS Liaison
Kathleen Hagen, CSW

Tri-Cities (1)

Brad Liebrecht

We concluded a survey which we used to identify and realign our past focus on eldercare and childcare. We found that 60% of the respondents were dealing or have dealt with eldercare issues. The survey identified that though the primary impact was on women there is also a growing population of men who are impacted. Based upon the results of this survey we changed the term of our reference and focus to Caregivers which we felt was more accurate and inclusive.

Under this title we began offering monthly brown bag presentations which focused on the needs of this group. Brown bag offerings we arranged and facilitated included: "Am I A Caregiver"; & Holiday - both presented by Suzy McNeilly from the Council on Aging; Leave Policies and Issues for Caregivers presented by Ann Monroe, HRS; Exercise, Stretches and Nutrition presentations, presented by Brad Stewart and Joanne Greene, WSU Wellbeing; and Understanding Grief and Bereavement presented by Jane Barga, WSU EAS.

Committee members created of a list serve to communicate specifically to this group, enabling us to streamline information and highlight events and topics of interest.

In October we celebrated our 4th Work Life month. We highlighted Brown Bag topics, Caregiving presentations as well as offerings on wellness issues and career development.

HRS added a new selection to their Career Fundamentals training which focused on Work/Life it began in November. Our committee and Faculty member Matt Bumpus was invited to present this module developed in cooperations with HRS in Vancouver, and has been invited to present it again every semester as part of the HRS training series.

The committee continues to follow issues identified in previous years, maternity/paternity leave issues for graduate students, civil service group, mentoring of employees, and exit interviews. Wellness continues to be a strong emphasis on campus and WL has continued in partnership with the Recreation Center through Brad Stewart and others to increase awareness of this important issue.

Human Resource Services continues to be supportive of our Work Life website though they no longer maintain it, WLAC committee members do. Dave Sargent continues to advise and train our members on it. We appreciate the service of HRS employees such as Zami Wilson, our liaison with their office, and Theresa Elliot-Cheslek long time work life supporter. Thanks go to all those at HRS that assist the committee that we haven't recognized.

Thanks to all members of the committee it is through their efforts that the committee continues to serve WSU.

Submitted by:
Teri Ockwell
November 2011
Chair, Work Life Advisory Committee