



WGSSI – September 11, 2007 Meeting

Welcome

Welcome to the September meeting of MIT's working group on support staff issues. I am Claudia LaBollita-James, the senior co-convener and this is Rhonda Maynard, the junior co-convener for the upcoming year.

We are delighted to welcome back our continuing members and extend a welcome to our new members. We would like to have you introduce yourself - name, department, and subcommittee and please let us know if you are a new member. If you are visiting for the first time, please let us know.

Theme for FY07-08

Last year the WGSSI made progress reworking a 30-plus year old organization, strengthening some of its internal processes and procedures; and will continue to work on the remaining procedures at the monthly leadership (co-chair) meetings.

The WGSSI subcommittees continue to do fantastic work and are successful on campus. While we recognize that the work being done by all of our subcommittees is important to the quality of life at MIT, we feel that the WGSSI as a whole, needs to reaffirm itself as THE voice of support staff. In looking back at our roots, we were advocates for change – i.e., Rhonda's wonderful slideshow (revolution = change). Now is the time to look at issues facing support staff and how WGSSI can advocate on their behalf as a TEAM. Thus, our theme for this membership year is TEAMWORK. We feel that it is vital to the interest of the WGSSI to work on a project as a TEAM in order to maintain its sense of community. This is not necessarily going to be an "easy" year, but we are certain that we can come together as a TEAM and make a difference.

In order to do this, we would like to know what you see as the most pressing issues to support staff. Francine Crystal will lead the brainstorming session later in the meeting. The output from this session will be brought to the leadership team for further direction.

Guests for upcoming year

Guest for the upcoming year include: Prof. Lawrence Susskind, co-author of *Breaking Robert's Rules: The New Way to Run Your Meeting, Build Consensus and Get Results*. Prof. Susskind is the Ford Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, School of Architecture. We had hoped to have President Hockfield at one of our fall meetings but her schedule did not work out so we are looking for a spring date. Once we know about President Hockfield, we will schedule a time with Alison Alden, our Human Resource sponsor. Heather Trickett from the Public Service Center will be a guest in November – we hope to have a December event that focuses on giving back to the MIT community.

Subcommittee updates

We will not have time for subcommittee updates today – if you send them to Rhonda, she will send them out to the group. I will also send a request from Nancy Gift re joining the Inside MIT users group – one of our members left the Institute and this committee; Nancy is looking for someone from Working Group to replace the former member.

Notes on today's agenda

Some of you may not be aware that members of WGSSI have served on the MIT Excellence Awards Committee. I have heard from some support staff that they feel that support staff are not represented among the award winners so when Kande Culver (Rewards & Recognition Program Administrator) asked Rhonda and I to be included on today's agenda, we thought it would be a good time for her to talk about how to put together a great nomination. We are very interested in seeing support staff being recognized for their support and dedication to their job and the Institute; Kande is here to let us know the best way to make that happen. Our own ABD and Recycling Subcommittees are excellence awards recipients as well as Anne Deveau, former co-convenor.

New member Michele Hudak is the co-chair of the Professional Development subcommittee, taking over from Kay Walsh, the founder of the subcommittee who left MIT this past summer. This subcommittee formed as a result of our successful partnership with Human Resources on the Your Professional Toolkit seminars held last June. Michele will talk briefly about this new subcommittee.