

Classified Connection Meeting March 14, 2007

Tricia Borchardt welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves and their department.

Barbara Penington, Communication, gave an interesting presentation on “Cross Cultural Communication – What’s the Problem?”

Culture--She talked about differences in culture. Culture is learned values and rules. Culture affects our dress, foods, language, and ways of doing, thinking, and believing.

Communication—verbal or nonverbal communication. Problems are:

1. Ethnocentrism: the belief that one's own culture is superior to all others and is the standard by which all other cultures should be measured.
2. Stereotyping

We must be willing to accept people of different cultures.

Time: Monochronic vs Polychronic—The U.S. tends to be more monochronic (strict time schedules) compared to other cultures. Polychronic cultures are more people-oriented. Barb gave the example that polychronic cultures are less concerned with being late to appointments.

Individualism vs Collectivism—The U.S. is more focused on individual needs and unique talents. Standing out is encouraged. Collectivist cultures focus on group needs and do not want to be the center of attention. She related these differences to situations faculty may encounter with students in classes.

Power Distance—Low Power Distance vs High Power Distance. Lower Power (U.S.) favor equality; high power are comfortable with hierarchy.

Low Context vs High Context—Low Context (U.S.) are more direct/to the point—say what you mean. High context use more body language/“beat around the bush”.

Barb showed a video clip from the “Joy Luck Club” that was about a Chinese girl bringing home her American fiancée for dinner to meet her family. It was a great example of the differences between cultures.

Tips for Better Cross Culture Communication:

1. Be open-minded.
2. Be sensitive to culture differences.
3. Be mindful of your own behavior.
4. Try to find areas where you can relate; there are always similarities, even in cross culture encounters.

Mary Pinkerton, Interim Dean of the College of Letters & Sciences, was our next speaker.

Mary gave us an update on plans for the move of the offices in L&S. Initially, L&S was scheduled to move into modular buildings north of Starin Rd. After much planning for the past year or more, the Regents recently turned down this plan. The new plan is to move to White Hall. There will be some renovations done to accommodate this move of about 100 people. Other plans involving L&S offices include: Math will be moving to McCutchan at the end of the semester. History will be moving to the 2nd floor of White the 1st part of June. (These two departments must move soon due to the scheduled razing of Baker Hall.) Mary also talked about specific plans for the locations of offices in White Hall.

Move of Other Offices in Baker:

Registrars – scheduled to move to Roseman last week of May.

Admissions – considering moving the week of May 14; this is not final.

Madison Conference

Maretta Miller, Registrars, reported that more information regarding scheduled sessions for the Conference on May 2 is now available on their website. A link to the conference website can found thru the Classified Connection website at:

http://www.uww.edu/registrar/classified_connection/

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:30 a.m. in Hyer 217. Speaker will be Steve McKellips, Admissions. Steve will talk about Types of Admits, how to read PS screens, how a student gets from Admissions to Departments. Don Wozniak will also be available to answer any questions about advising holds (when and what kind).