Candice: This last week, the co-conveners and student trustee went out to dinner with Kathy, and we talked about what we wanted to do with Caucus. One of the ideas we had was to state the meeting with an overview of what we’ve been doing in the Caucus office that week. So, I’m working on typing up something for the Echo – we’re going to have a page talking about what Caucus, Staff Forum, and the committees are doing, just to get the campus more informed. Anything else?

Lindsy: We got new computers.

Evan: I’m working on revamping the whole website – hopefully it will actually make sense soon. If you can think of anything that you would like to see on it, just send Caucus and email, because I need some more ideas.

Lindsy: Are there any committee reports? No.

Candice: So, at the end of last semester, we passed a proposal to set up a triad day schedule once a term for community meetings. Then it went to Staff Forum, and Lindsy was there for that meeting.

Lindsy: The feedback we got from Forum was basically a strong support for the idea of having a time when we could all meet – some of the things they suggesting thinking about were: figuring out how many hours of classes are needed per year, to see if reducing classes to fit in a community meeting is even possible, checking with Sue to see if, once a term, instead of having one of her safety meetings, if we could have a community meeting… Other things they were looking at were: do we have a location on campus where we could fit everyone, and they would like some input from staff and faculty at the meeting so they aren’t so student related, but community related.

Candice: Another thing we talked about last week was getting staff and faculty more involved in community meetings.

Lindsy: That’s about all the feedback we got. So we’re going to open it up to you, if you have any ideas about where we should take this…

Rick: What was the proposed location?

Lindsy: We usually just do it in Canon Lounge, though if we could fit everyone in on a Triad day…

Laura: How many people can you legally have in that room, with fir codes and all?

Candice: Not 800. It kind of works now – we usually have a good attendance to community meetings, but there would be a problem is everybody did come. But I don’t think we have a place where we could legally have them, except maybe for Dogwood.

Kate: The only place we have that could fit the entire student body is the gym.

Lindsy: Maybe for spring, Dogwood could work.

Candice: On the subject of community meetings, we’re planning to have one pretty soon - we have a couple of dates in mind – about smoking policy and smoking on campus. There are a lot of different reactions, so it seems like this is a discussion that needs to happen.

Lindsy: We were thinking about having one in October. That way it would be possible to have another in December before we all leave. We’re thinking either a Tuesday or a Thursday, and if we have the meeting on Tuesday, we were just going to cancel the Caucus meeting. That date would have to be Oct. 9th. On Thursdays, Canon’s open on the 11th, the 18th, or the 25th.

Candice: If it seems like a good idea to you guys, we might just cancel the Caucus meeting if we choose a Thursday, too.

Lindsy: Any thoughts?

Ben: Tuesdays are really busy.

Candice: So Thursdays would be better.
Kathy: The 11th is the board meeting.

Candice: So it looks like the 18th is the best day. Does anyone have anything to say about how the meeting should be handled logistically? Like, small groups or large groups, and how we should present the subject? We were thinking about having a Caucus member and a Staff Forum member so it’d be the two governances working together.

Paige: Maybe you could have one or two presentations on the ideas so that we can get everyone on the same page.

Meredith: I think it would also be a good idea to give out an evaluation to all the students about the smoking areas, etc, just to get everyone’s perspective.

Candice: Like a survey for people’s mailboxes or online?

Todd: No one fills those out.

Franklin: If you make it short...

Amy: What about someone with a table, someone with a face instead of just a box.

Rick: Could we just do a show of hands and get the opinions of the people who bother to show up?

Meredith: Yeah, but I was talking about the whole community.

Todd: But the people who show up will probably be the same people who bother to fill out the survey.

Carol: A lot of people aren’t going to be vocal about it in a room full of opposing sides.

Chris: If you had a Zoomerang survey with only five questions, and you made that clear in the email, I think you’d have a good turnout.

Todd: The smoking survey that came out online in the first place only had 300 people who filled it out.

Renee: I think that’s a pretty good number, though. You could get a lot of information from that.

Candice: A survey of some sort, anyway. I was thinking that maybe we could have a panel that people could go to with questions.

Todd: Who would be on the panel?

Lindsay: Who would you like to see on the panel?

Franklin: People who were on the compromise committee.

Rick: I’d like to see some students on there, and definitely some smokers.

Chris: You’d have to be careful that the panel isn’t biased.

Rick: It would be biased if there were no smokers, too.

Candice: If anyone wants to volunteer or suggest someone, you can contact us.

Carol: Maybe you could put signs up in the smoking tents.

Laura: You want non-smokers on the panel too, and they might not see them there.

Amy: And not just students. We’d need staff and faculty representatives.

Lindsay: So maybe we’ll work on some survey questions and bring the topic back up next week.

At this point in time, my tape conked out. Sorry guys! I totally forgot that I wasn’t using the digital recorder. I’ll do better next time! The following is a summary of the conversation with Sandy – if anyone sees anything important that got left out, please send us an email and the website will be edited.

Thanks!

Our conversation began with the topic of trails. Recently, there has been an increase of lude conduct, illegal activities, and disregard for rules on the Warren Wilson trails, as well as several reports of dog bites. As it is obvious that our policy needs to change, the school has been considering several options in the hopes of rectifying the problem. Suggestions such a trail permits, better advertising, and dogless trails were discussed, though nothing is going forward immediately. Students were concerned about alienating the community outside Wilson, but the need for some action to be
The conversation then turned to enrollment. As we all know, Wilson has enrolled more students this semester than in semesters past. Sandy added that this was not quite intentional – our retention of previous students was higher, as was the number of approved applicants who actually came to this school. However, Wilson does have a fair number of unoccupied rooms, which would never happen at most campuses. The question remains - should we allow enrollment to increase, or should we retain our current numbers? Both options would call several other considerations to light, such as class size, the effectiveness of the work program, the functionality of our dining halls, and available student spaces.

End at 7:30