

1) Sense of Community:

I would like to suggest that you might organize a "theater night" -- it could be here at UIC; maybe the Theater Dept. would give us a group rate. Perhaps you would even reserve the Dean's room at BSB and have pre-theater dinner catered (optional). The benefits are 1) everyone saves some money on tickets/dinner and time; 2) live performances are fun for people to share. Alternatively, maybe the SOC can organize a group to go to one of the choral, jazz or symphony performances at UIC. Thank you!

Signed,
thorburn@uic.edu

The Sense of Community likes the idea of supporting another department at UIC. Enforced socialization where small talk is required is not always comfortable for everyone. This type of event might be suitable for those whom small talk does not come easily. As mentioned in the Library Support Staff Advisory Tours if you or anyone would be willing to organize such an event, please feel free to do so. The LSSAC and SOCC do not want to make anyone feel that they have to go through these committees to organize a social outing for the library family.

2) Sense of Community:

It's funny how the LSSAC tries to cover up the problems in the library with food. Do you really think an ice cream social is the answer?
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Is there a particular problem to which you refer? As mentioned in the tours of the Library Support Staff Advisory Committee, the Ice Cream Social in LHS is a way to bring about a Sense of Community with the library family. It is being held in LHS make those on the west campus feel they are a part of the library family. With the All Staff Meetings and the Holiday party being held on the east side of campus, it is a way of introducing some to the west campus. It is meant strictly as a fun event, and not one to solve any problems the library my have. People who have fun together are more likely to sit down at the table together than those who see each other as adversaries.

3) Support Staff Development:

The LSSAC has too many excuses to why they don't respond to the comments suggestions that staff are submitting in a timely manner. Also, If the LSSAC has to wait for Mary Case approval, we might as well go to her directly instead of wasting our time with the LSAAC

Signed,
Anonymous

THERE IS NO IMPEDIMENT TO A STAFF MEMBER APPROACHING MARY CASE DIRECTLY, BUT PLEASE DO NOT CONSIDER YOUR TIME WASTED WHEN YOU APPROACH LSAAC. EVEN THOUGH YOUR ISSUE MAY NOT BE ADDRESSED AS QUICKLY AS ANY OF US WOULD LIKE, YOU ARE EDUCATING LSSAC REGARDING THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST. THEREBY, YOU ARE BECOMING PART OF THE SOLUTION PROCESS. HOPEFULLY, AS LSSAC AND SOCC BECOME MORE PROFICIENT AT NEGOTIATING THE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS, WE WILL ARRIVE AT APPROPRIATE AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS MORE QUICKLY. WE REGRET YOUR DISSATISFACTION; HOWEVER, QUICKER ANSWERS ARE NOT ALWAYS GOOD ANSWERS.

4) Sense of Community

Dear All Concerned: I first want to thank the committee for all their effects in bringing about a committee to bridge issues, solutions and most of all a sense of community. Although I must express that experience in dealing with the stages of Hierarchical have been both beneficial and disillusioning. For one just to catch up with what my fellow workers have to say I went back and read each months suggestion. They were both en-lighting and baffling to say the least. But I take it that this is the exact place to voice what concerns us. I noticed most of the issues addressed by the committee referred to the general rules of the University, such as phone policies, group activities. Something all employees should be aware of by now. Although a reminder does no one any harm. I do appreciate the up coming events you are doing internally. Secondly, I noted that for the exception of the committee everyone wrote anonymously. I could relate to this considering that you don't want to be a directly targeted to any feedback. I commend Peoria for taking half that risk. And since I myself have been in the last 6 months in a target position. I will stay anonymous as well. In one of the replies I read that is why this suggestion box was created thank you. I hope to see in the future more of your efforts make a difference for all of us. Let me get to the point here: I do work at LHS in a department that I'm the sole civil service employee. Needless to say these past 6 months I have done much growth in learning that voicing your opinion can harm you or make you a better person. As a part of the big picture being an employee here at UIC, and the services provide outside my department and the strong community effort of Union, Main, HR and other resources I have peace of mind. So I consider that a success to some community efforts. You see when you become a target voice for a group of people you learn quickly that there is power in numbers. Co-workers I encourage you to voice your opinions, and thoughts. My latest issue is that the department I am in has decided to keep our front door locked and closed. Each time a visitor, someone from an outside department, fellow co-worker comes up they must knock. I have to get up to open the door each time. My job description doesn't include being a doorman (person). Nor does it include my being security for the office. This function has brought much distraction and negative attention and interruptions to regular work on a daily bases. God forbid that something should happen. The

scenario could be that if my co-workers outside the office needed to run for shelter our office would be closed. On the other hand if someone was targeting only our department. Would I be considered a hero for being the first one down or a victim of circumstances? How would we list this one? Other departments including outside the library have commented that we are giving a very cold message, stay out, your not welcomed. Not to mention that this doesn't seem fair that an employee is used as a door keeper. Especially since we are located in an area where the public notices us. The Library on a whole is a public place. How many are willing to sign a petition or stand up for what should be done in another fashion? This time it is me next time it just might be you doing something out of the norm. The office decided this for safety reasons. Although in the years I have been here I have not heard of any static's, or any reporting of the Library ever being in any danger. This to me is not a community binding effort. Surely we don't service the library in any service mold but having a closed door does isolate us from any open door policy or a friendly community effort. A bell has been offered as an option, but this does not resolve the getting up to open the door and confronting who ever is on the other side. As a solution, a buzzer would be ideal at least we could give the whole department including me a sense of safety. Secondly, I would be behind a desk. Thirdly, I would have access to a phone for calling campus police should the need arrive. Fourthly, as an employee I would be include as part of the team, rather than being isolated creating a non community feeling between academic and civil services. Isn't this what committee is about? If cost is an issue I suggest the following we keep the door closed but unlocked and everyone has the same equal sense of security in the building. Or we all take turns answering a door bell. But as one academic co-worker mentioned, that is not in there job duties. Where there got the idea, that it is in my job duties only strengthens the view that civil service employees needs to be valued on a higher scale of the community. Each of us are part of the whole picture and need to work on these kind of issues as a part of a whole. This is only one issue... Thank you!

Signed,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Have you confided to your supervisor your feelings of vulnerability? Having to work in an environment in which one feels unsafe or vulnerable is not the ideal working situation.

Just as an experiment: try timing how many minutes of the day you are actually involved with getting up to open the door. Sometimes if a supervisor sees hard numbers he/she may be more inclined to address an issue.

5) Due to all staff being responsible for handling security situations, I suggest that HR set-up Security Training for all staff as a required session. This could be done at the Staff Development Day.

madsen@uic.edu

Dear Concerned Worker,

This is an Excellent Suggestion for Staff Development. Public Libraries have been dealing with security issues for a quite a while.