Work-Life Balance Sub-Committee

March 13, 2013

The Child Care workgroup of CCW’s Work-Life Balance Subcommittee continues the years-long process of securing funding for a drop-in child care center on campus.

***The initiative is founded squarely on the assumption that a community that takes collective responsibility for making quality flexible child care available to its members, positively impacts the economic and emotional health of that community.  This initiative will replicate those funded by progressive organizations around the country that recognize that the academic and long-term economic success of student-parents is fostered by the availability of campus-based child care –a resource which allows students to access library resources, attend study groups, and participate in academic and social events on campus.***

The need for this student service at CCSU has been substantiated both formally and informally—via anecdotes shared by students –many posted on the WLB website—as well as a systematic surveying of the student population by WLP co-Chair, Fiona Pearson.  The President has expressed his support, as have several Deans and Department heads, though none have evidenced this yet by dedicating financial support.  The Graduate Student Senate and AAUP have verbally promised start-up funds, and Richard Bachoo, a stead-fast supporter, has committed to provide library space to house the center.

Most recently, Chris Galligan has offered to apply his skills and influence to the cause of moving someone to champion the project-- to put their money where their heart is.  Not coincidentally, Mr. Galligan’s offer of support comes a few months after the birth of his second child.

The child care project is currently conceived as a 24 month pilot with a total budget of $20-30,000—depending on caregiver payment structure and cost of liability insurance.  Long-term and sustainable funding would be sought during year two of the pilot as we amass satisfaction, utilization and outcomes data that is expected to support the proposition that campus-based childcare is as fundamental student life and success as meal and fitness facilities.  The pilot will involve running, evaluating, and detailing the need for, a campus-based drop-in childcare center for CCSU students with pre-school and school aged children.