

Agenda

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975 words

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Departmental Meeting, Research and Marketing Support Division, Provview LLC

3/12/2010 9 am - 10:00 am¹

Convenor: C. Whitehead (Dept. Head)

Attending: V. Farmer [intern], M. Fishburne, B. Goldfarb, T. Howe, H. Tate, J. Simmons, C. Wiczorkowski

Personal Copy, Administrative Assistant Class II M. Fishburne

I. Announcements²

II. Current projects: status reports³

1 C. Whitehead arrives 9:05 am, reports traffic backed up over the bridge and personal parking space already taken. General appearance tired, harassed. Departmental meeting convenes at 9:15.

2 Update on operating system upgrade by T. Howe and H. Tate. Monthly reminder about company policy on common-area microwaves and refrigerators. Request for special event posters to be cleared by department receptionist/admin assistant before posting.

Discussion: B. Goldfarb points out that Christmas holiday party posters do not require clearance, but a flyer about Passover seder at the Mittleman Center apparently does. C. Whitehead denies underlying bias to policy. V. Farmer [intern] affirms appearance of bias, without confirming intention of bias. V. Farmer also comments that she is Jewish on her father's mother's side, and loved *Schindler's List*.

3 T. Howe and H. Tate report on IT equipment inventory project. Complete inventory of non-capitalized IT equipment is due 4/1. Request responses to emailed requests for information about workstation setups. J. Simmons asks if mice count. T. Howe and H. Tate: no, mice do not count.

C. Whitehead requests that everyone read the emails and respond today. H. Tate requests that this include C. Whitehead.

J. Simmons reports on outcomes from meetings with print marketing team: "aligning goals and strategies."

Note: J. Simmons's makeup ages her. Considering the amount of money she spends at the Clinique counter on lunch breaks, she should look twenty-five instead of forty-two.

C. Whitehead requests a budget report from C. Wiczorkowski. C. Wiczorkowski reports needing more time to prepare. C. Whitehead requests an informal report. C. Wiczorkowski

III. Future projects: brainstorming^{4 5}

IV. Circle back^{6 7 8 9}

declines. C. Whitehead asks for, "Something, whatever you've got--just throw some numbers at us." C. Wieczorkowski says this would be unwise, as it might cause anxiety among the staff. C. Whitehead, with nervous laugh: "Well, at least tell us we're not going under!" C. Wieczorkowski: no response. C. Whitehead stops laughing. Rest of staff exchange looks.

4 V. Farmer [intern] seizes opportunity to wedge self farther up C. Whitehead's ass crack, which is astounding considering current degree of ass-wedge. Suggests day-long planning retreat at airport Ramada: "My friend is in charge of bookings, I can get us a good rate." C. Whitehead asks group if this is a good idea. All staff lie, say yes. J. Simmons, regrouping: "I'm just afraid we might overthink things." Other staff give Simmons admiring looks. B. Goldfarb: "We may need a little more time to consider before we commit." T. Howe says something about momentum, not impeding. Retreat is tabled. V. Farmer, visibly demoralized, excuses herself.

C. Whitehead asks for more brainstorming for future projects.

Crickets.

5 C. Whitehead leaps into gap by revivifying the shambling corpse of The Project Proposal That Will Not Die: The User Needs Survey.

IMP. NOTE: C. Whitehead is wearing the same pants she wore yesterday, and when she turns her head a dry cleaning tag is visible in the collar of her shirt.^a

T. Howe and B. Goldfarb form a temporary alliance in order to appear to consider this idea and then to reject it for reasons including lack of resources, competing deadlines, and the fact that nobody wants to do it.

6 V. Farmer returns in time to request further clarification on meaning of "non-capitalized IT equipment" during circle-back. While T. Howe and H. Tate explain, C. Whitehead's iPhone vibrates and she checks message, closes eyes and pinches bridge of nose, then returns attention to meeting. J. Simmons and B. Goldfarb exchange a look.

7 J. Simmons recalls additional announcement: Human Resources will be screening the OSHA video, *A Code of Honor*, on the subject of workers' compensation claims, in the 4th floor break room next Tuesday at noon. All are welcome. A flyer will be posted.

8 B. Goldfarb requests that the flyer be cleared by the administrative assistant before posting.

9 J. Simmons replies that it will.

V. Adjourn¹⁰

¹⁰ C. Whitehead, sounding tired, asks if anyone has anything else for the group. Crickets. C. Whitehead thanks group, adjourns meeting. V. Farmer leaps to feet to collect and recycle agendas. C. Whitehead dials iPhone while leaving. B. Goldfarb, J. Simmons, T. Howe, H. Tate, M. Fishburn wait until V. Farmer has left before sharing suppositions about C. Whitehead's marital, mental state. C. Wiczorkowski goes directly to unattended candy bowl on M. Fishburn's desk and empties half of it into his pockets for the third time this month.

a. This suggests one of two things: C. Whitehead is more than usually stressed out and dressing carelessly, or C. Whitehead did not go home last night. C. Whitehead's personal life has been a matter of office interest and, at times, intense discussion for several years. C. Whitehead is known to be a lesbian in a long-term monogamous relationship with M. Daughtertyⁱ, and to share adoptive custody of two children. Recently, though, C. Whitehead has been working late hours, closing office door for heated phone exchanges, and--sometime within the last six weeks--has stopped wearing a wedding ring. This contributes to suspicion that C. Whitehead may not be living regularly at home, which in turns begs the question: which partner is having the affair, and who is it with?

i. Assistant Head of Purchasing and Contracting, Viatus Com LLC. [Competitor firm.]