



2005-2006 Staff Council Officers

President: Deborah Rupp
Vice President: B. J. Yergens
Secretary: Renee Bazemore
Parliamentarian: Charlotte Petrek

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STAFF COUNCIL MINUTES
September 21, 2005
Room 465 University Center

Members Present: Renee Bazemore, Shelia Bradley, Cliveita Caesar, Vernessia Callahan, Natasha Davenport, Sally Fowler, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Ruby Hopkins, June Houston, Angela Lefebvre, Katie Lowry, John Medlock, Jean Miller, Bonte Mitchell, Charlotte Petrek, Wandra Ponder, Preeti Sagar, Kenee Stephens, Jeffrey Stockwell, Michelle Swain, Randy Trammell, Anita Webb, Shelly-Ann Williams and B.J. Yergens.

Members Excused: Carolyn Alexander, Amber Amari, Angela Arnold, David Bledsoe, Victor Bolet, Melissa Brennaman, Danny Darby, Dawn Davis, Tazar Gissentanner, Jan McCord, Sandra Miller, Debbie Rupp, Angela Turk and Rhonda Williams.

Members Absent: Melissa Buchheit, Deborah Dunbar, Patricia Early, Al Gore, Frank Hall, Toure Heywood, Tyra Hines, Carol Miller, Larry Pankey, Jackie Slaton, Adolphus Stroud, Maria Trejo and Marlon Williams.

Guests: Kenya Asbill, Sarah Drahovzal, Shelby Failing, Jennifer Santiago and Lisa Shepard

Call to Order and Opening remarks: The meeting was called to order by Staff Council Vice President B. J. Yergens at 3:05 p.m. Debbie Rupp is on vacation. B.J. welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

B.J. welcomed new member, Susan Vogtner from the research department.

Approval of the Minutes: There was a motion to amend the August 17, 2005 minutes. The changes were made under Senate Reports, Planning & Development. In the first sentence, the word *safety* was replaced with *the perception of crime* and the word *sub* was added in the second sentence. B.J. asked for a motion to accept the August 17, 2005 Staff Council minutes as amended. A motion was made; it was seconded and passed. The amended minutes were approved.

New Business:

- **Athletic Association Blood Challenge** - Jennifer Santiago. The Athletic Association joined a new conference, the Colonial Athletic Association. The CAA is sponsoring a blood challenge among all the conference universities. The school that donates the most blood wins the challenge. Georgia State's goal is to receive 500 pints of blood. Some of the incentives for donating; the first 100 people to sign up & show up will receive a t-shirt, a Presidents Cup will be presented to the department with the highest percentage of participation, home basketball game vouchers will be given to faculty and staff and raffles items will be given out throughout the day.

The Red Cross will conduct a single day blood drive in the Sports Arena on Friday, September 30, 2005 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. This is GSU's inaugural season in the conference and the Athletic Association would like for the campus at large to participate. Please help spread the word, everyone's help is needed. A GroupWise announcement will go out next week with all of the details.

- **Staff Scholarships** - Nadine Webb, Georgia State Foundation. Nadine congratulated and presented certificates to the recipients of the 2005 Fall Semester Staff Scholarships. The recipients were: Kenya Asbill, Calendra Bryant, Sarah Drahovzal, Shelby Failing, Elsa Gebremedhin, Emmie C. Jackson, Anjelica Nation, Marketta Pettway, Richard Sewell, Lisa Shepard and Sandra Storrod.

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits** – The work life alternative project is ongoing. Employee exit interviews are being re-implemented and hopefully the interviews will help isolate the cause of employee turnover. The amount of turnover is costly to the university.
- **Professional development** – The staff scholarship applications were evaluated and 11 recipients were awarded scholarships totaling \$3,700.
- **Events** – The Benefits/Employee Information Fair is October 17. Flyers are on the table for distribution. Volunteers are needed to help with the Fair from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Preeti has the volunteer sign-up sheet. Any gift of time is appreciated. The committee will meet again on September 22.
- **Communications** – Victor Bolet gave a presentation on proxy email accounts. The committee will continue to review effective ways for members to communicate with their constituents.

Senate Reports:

- **Planning & Development** – reviewed master plan.
- **FACP** – Provost asked academic departments to hold back 2/3% and administrative units 1%. Fall enrollment is down and spring will likely be down too. Summer credit hours were down by 9,000. There were 600 Katrina students that did not pay tuition. Thanks to all the staff that assisted with the Katrina students. Georgia State was the first school to come forward to offer help to the displaced students.

Updates/Announcements:

- The flexible spending plan vendor for 2006 will change to SHPS, the same vendor, State Merit uses. SHPS will provide each participant with a spending account debit card. If the card is activated there is \$.85 monthly charge.

- The Sick Leave Pool will be a part of the 2006 benefits package. Employees that want to participate will have to donate at least 8 hours to the pool. Congratulations to Staff Council for making the Sick Leave Pool happen!
- Women's Leadership Academy 2006 will be inducted on September 29, 2005. The new members have not been announced yet.
- FAFSA – is offering Yoga and Weight Watchers classes.
- Raffle items are needed for the USGSC Conference in Athens. Georgia State will have five participants attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25.m.

Minutes prepared by: Renee Bazemore, please send any additions or corrections to rbazemore@gsu.edu or call 404/651-3979.