Staff Council President Phillip Mitchem called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the April minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Myisha Washington from the Office of Annual Giving gave an update on the Campus Campaign. Gifts can be made up to June 30 and she brought forms for those who needed them. Gifts can be directed to the Staff Scholarship Fund, which will aid other staff members working on their education. Phillip reminded the council of the retreat on May 25.

The floor was turned over the President Patton. He welcomed the new members and encouraged everyone to attend the activities of other groups across campus. He gave an overview of GSU accomplishments to date. A top priority item for him is a salary increase for staff and faculty. He’ll be visiting with the various BOR members over the summer lobbying for salary increases and funding for the humanities building. The accelerated program in Alpharetta for joint enrollment students in high school will increase the number of students. These students can get their bachelor’s in three years and their master’s with one additional year of school. Dr. Patton would like to work on ways that GSU can feel more like a community. One potential idea is a faculty/staff dining area.

The next item of business was a discussion of the upcoming retreat. Phillip asked for volunteers to assist with the set-up, discussed breakfast items and giveaways, and mentioned that anyone who needs a ride can contact Victor Bolet or MaryAnne Gaunt. Phillip then turned to vacant committee slots. Annette Butler has agreed to serve on ASUR; however, there are open slots on Parking and the Recreation Center Advisory Board. Phillip recognized Leah Harris who will be covering Staff Council for University Relations.

Sandra Garber began the Senate committee reports with her update on the Planning and Development Committee. This committee will continue to work on the Master Plan. The Library Committee elected a new chair. The Athletics Committee re-elected its chair and discussed how the new “W” policy and plus/minus grading will affect athletes. There is a feasibility study on football currently underway. San Miller gave an update from the Commencement Committee. Discussion is underway about changing the ceremonies since the logistics for holding commencement in our Sports Arena is getting more and more difficult. One possibility is to move the ceremony to the Georgia Dome for Spring and Fall and eliminate the Summer ceremony. Courtland Bridge construction will also be a logistical problem for graduation ceremonies.

San introduced Kevin Olivette from the Athletics Department. Kevin talked about the online football feasibility study. Only 3,000 students have completed the survey to date. Funding for a possible football program would
have to come from revenue generation. Possible venues for games would be the Georgia Dome or Morris Brown College.

John Medlock gave the report for the Budget Committee. Subcommittees are being formed to examine retention, progression, and graduation rates. GSU has received some earmarked money for working on these areas. A subcommittee is being formed to examine issues in HR that came to light during VP Rackliffe’s triennial review. The Faculty Affairs Committee is working on updating the PTI handbook. MaryAnne Gaunt reported for Statutes and Bylaws and Academic Programs. She noted that the Cultural Diversity Committee recently completed a survey on LGBT issues.

Cheryl Johnson Ransaw from FASA announced the upcoming initiatives: Yoga and Meditation and Weight Watchers. She asked representatives to spread the work to their constituents.

Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone