STAFF COUNCIL MINUTES
August 16, 2006
480 University Center

Members Present: Ed Able, Menetha Aiston, Angela Arnold, Renee Bazemore, Victor Bolet, Vanessa Brown, Denise Floyd, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Sharon German, Al Gore, Laurie Jones, Ray Lanier, Angela Lefebvre, Jan McCord, Jean Miller, Phillip Mitchem, Kimberly Moore, Stephanie Mullis, James Poulakos, Kenee Stephens, Shantavia Reid, Christopher Robertson, Debbie Rupp, Randy Trammell, Rhonda Williams, and Lawana Wimberly.


Members Absent: Cindy Clark, Erin Drayton, Tyra Hinoe, Gary Longstreet, Kristian Thomas, and Angela Turk.

Guests: Earl Daniels and Beth Jones.

Staff Council President Phillip Mitchem called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the July minutes. The minutes were approved with one change.

Phillip introduced Beth Jones from the VPFA’s office. She discussed the draft stipend form that was sent to SC members with the meeting announcement. She mentioned changes that had been incorporated into this newer form. She defined the terms “acting” and “interim” in regards to a person filling open position. She asked to be contacted if there was any other feedback.

President Patton addressed the council next. He thanked everyone who has worked hard to make this upcoming semester a success. He spoke of the importance of students being “engaged” with the university. He then gave updates on several campus projects. The University Commons project is on schedule. The BOR should approve GSU’s sale of the Village at its October meeting. Land has been purchased to house some sororities and fraternities. This should add life and vitality to the campus.

The groundbreaking for the new science park is planned for October with the Governor in attendance. The humanities building is still on the BOR’s capital projects list. At some point in the future mandatory housing for freshman will be enacted. The Courtland Street bridge project is slated to start in 2008 and take up to 30 months to complete. Dene Sheheane is heading up a committee to work on this project. Commencement will be moving to one major ceremony each year with an internationally known speaker. The planned start date for this will be May 2008 at the Georgia Dome.

Renee Bazemore gave a report on the SC Events Committee. October 10 will be the Benefits’ Employee Information Day. All staff interested in helping with this event should contact Denise Floyd. James Poulakas will be on hand that day to talk about the donated leave policy. He’ll have FAQ handouts for folks to pick up. The Events Committee is welcoming any and all ideas to encourage employees to attend this event.

Debbie Rupp mentioned the 2006 Kaiser Permanente Corporate Walk/Run on Thursday, September 21. GSU will have a tent this year. Debbie encouraged everyone to participate in this fun event.

Victor Bolet gave a report from the SC Staff Development Committee. It has been working to gather information on training opportunities across campus. This group is interested in working with the Communication Committee on this project. Staff Development will be working on the Staff Scholarship at its upcoming meeting.
James Poulakas reported for the Benefits Committee. He gave an update on the Donated Leave Policy. To date, there are 200 people signed up for this and over 3,200 hours are available for distribution. None of those people registered has yet to ask for any donated leave. There are 58 faculty and 142 staff members registered. Drs. Patton and Henry have agreed to extend the program for another year before making the final decision about keeping or discarding this program. HR is working on ways to make the program more accessible to all employees.

Randy Trammell reported for the Communication Committee. It has been discussing a central forum of communication to distribute information to all staff. There were no Senate committee reports.

Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone