GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2007
Room 465 University Center

Attending: Annette Butler, Gretchen Cannon, Frederick Childs, Cindy Clark, Earl Daniels, Sandra Garber, Sharon German, Toure Heywood, John Medlock, San Miller, Christopher Robertson, Debbie Kupp, David Smart, Cassandra Thornton, Angela Turk, Susan Vogtner, Henry Winston, Valerie Woods

Excused: Randall Alberts, Menetha Alston, Amber Amari, Kevin Chappell, Denise Floyd, MaryAnne Gaunt, Kimberly Moore, James Poulakos, Bill Prigge, LaRose Raston, Shantavia Reid, Lisa Shepard, Anita Webb, Shelly-Ann Williams

Absent: Jessie Aaron, Sonda Abernathy, Vanessa Brown, Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Eric Drayton, Cherecia Kline, Gary Longstreet, Phillip Mitchem, Beverly Peters, Natasha Stark, Tawanna Tookes, Randy Trammell, Lawana Wimberly

Guests: President Carl Patton, Chief Connie Sampson, Mike Raderstorf

Opening Business:

Staff Council Vice Chair Deborah Rupp called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with one change: David Smart was added as attending the previous meeting.

Campus Safety

University President Carl Patton spoke with the council about safety on the streets and emergency planning. In the wake of the recent death of a student at Piedmont and Decatur Street, the campus needs to renew efforts to enhance pedestrian safety. Employees could contribute much to this effort by serving as good role models for students and not crossing against the light. The traffic calming measures planned for Decatur St. and for Piedmont Ave. have funding but still need city of Atlanta and DOT approval.

Dr. Patton commented on the handling of a recent chemical spill near Classroom South. He noted that the overall response of university personnel was in keeping with tabletop exercises for such eventualities. Of course, it is difficult to know what shape the next crisis will take. Problems with the phone emergency announcement system have been examined and appear to be human error. Emergency announcement speakers have been installed in key locations on campus. Keeping emergency response systems simple in this way may be the safest course for the future.
Dr. Patton and Chief Sampson both reported the recent hiring of Mike Raderstorf as the university’s director of emergency management. Mr. Raderstorf expressed his pleasure at being selected for the position. He worked previously with ING. Chief Sampson indicated that Raderstorf will coordinate previously dispersed emergency response efforts.

**Staff Committee Reports:**

- **Benefits** is discussing options relating to a bereavement policy.
- **Communication** developed a color brochure that was distributed at the Benefits/Employee Information Fair and will be used during council elections. Deborah Rupp thanked the committee for its work on the informative document.
- **Events**: The Benefits/Employee Information Fair was a great success, with more than 1,000 estimated in attendance. The council had a table with the new brochure and Staff Scholarship giving forms. Rupp thanked the committee members for all their efforts to make the Fair a successful event.
- **Staff Development** met with Linda Bryant from HR and Chris Jackman from Building Services to discuss literacy/ESL training for university staff.
- **Elections and Bylaws** is working on a bylaws change proposal.

**Ad hoc Committee Reports:**

- **Green**: The ad hoc Green committee would like to hold a recycling day soon to focus attention on existing university programs and provide a one-time opportunity for special recycling efforts. The group has also explored getting Flex Car to place cars on the main campus (there are cars currently at the new dorm).
- **Staff Advancement and Retention** is waiting for the Senate task force to move the staff survey forward. That group has decided to refocus the survey and will be meeting soon.

**Senate Committee Reports:**

- **Athletics** has discussed the upcoming NCAA review of the university.
- **Commencement**: Volunteers are needed for the new single Commencement ceremony on December 16. Those working the event need to arrive at 9 a.m. A shuttle from campus to the Georgia Dome will be available.
- **CBSAC** has discussed research lab standards in relation to the new science building.
- **Executive Committee** discussed the start of construction of the science building this fall as well as the growth in student enrollment (currently 27,500+).
- **Faculty Affairs and Budget** have developed a proposal for the University System’s criminal background check requirement. New employees and those promoted into positions of trust (i.e., those with responsibility for “cash, kids, or keys”) will have to go through criminal background
checks. A committee, which will include the Staff Council chair or his or her designee when the
candidate is a staff member, will review any findings of reviews and determine their relevance.

- **Administrative Council** discussed the special interest housing planned for Piedmont Ave., the new
personnel effort reporting system, customer service initiatives across the university, and a USG
fraud reporting hotline.

- **CAP** approved new concentrations in Policy Studies and initiated a discussion of oversight of
university-wide courses.

- **Planning and Development** considered ASUR reviews and met with Connie Sampson and Mike
Raderstorff. That body’s Campus Safety subcommittee reported on new lighting on campus.

**Announcements:**

- Deborah Rupp reminded the group about the Day in the Park event, Thursday, October 25 from
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

- Staff Council has been asked to spread the word about a letter-writing campaign for troops
overseas. Deb can provide more information for those interested.

- FASA is sponsoring a wide range of services for staff and faculty, including a book club, brown-
bag series, and yoga and meditation courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*Recorded by John Medlock*