Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2007
Room 465 University Center

Attending: Randall Alberts, Amber Amari, Vanessa Brown, Frederick Childs, Cindy Clark, Corey Cook, Earl Daniels, Denise Floyd, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Toure Heywood, John Medlock, Curtis Miller, Phillip Mitchem, Kimberly Moore, James Poulakos, Bill Prigge, Shantavia Reid, Christopher Robertson, Debbie Rupp, Lisa Shepard, Natasha Stark, Tawanna Tookes, Randy Trammell, Angela Turk, Susan Vogtner, Shelly-Ann Williams, Henry Winston, Valerie Woods

Excused: Menetha Alston, Kevin Chappell, Gary Longstreet, San Miller, LaRose Raston, Lawana Wimberly

Absent: Jessie Aaron, Sonda Abernathy, Annette Butler, Gretchen Cannon, Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Eric Drayton, Sharon German, Cherecia Kline, Stephanie Mullis, Beverly Peters, Cassandra Thornton, Anita Webb

Opening Business:

Staff Council chair Shelly-Ann Williams called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

Committees Planning:

As the first item of business, Committees Director Amber Amari distributed the current list of committee assignments. She reported that several committees had already met, and that all should plan to meet before the retreat in May. Each committee should agree on a meeting schedule for the year by the end of the retreat. She has asked last year’s chairs to provide an update on committee activities, which she will make available to new chairs as part of their committee notebooks. She also plans to distribute a basic minutes template to chairs.

University President Carl Patton

Dr. Patton greeted the council and congratulated the new officers on their election. He focused much of his comments on the recent shooting at Virginia Tech. Since the tragedy, Georgia State police, the Counseling Center, and other university services have been mobilized to address concerns of students, staff, and faculty. From his conversations with other presidents, he concludes that Georgia State is in keeping with most universities in terms of campus security measures. If faced with a campus emergency
of this sort, he advised employees and students to stay in their offices, classrooms, or other secure location.

The president also reported that the university’s exploration of the viability of establishing a football program is progressing. Some alumni have been vocal supporters of the idea for many years. Campus surveys and the recent public forums have also indicated that some students would be willing to accept a student fee increase to bring the sport to Georgia State. Former NFL player and Falcons and Denver Broncos head coach Dan Reeves has been hired as a consultant for the project.

Senate Elections

The council held elections for five open seats on the University Senate. Nomination materials had been distributed to members by email before the meeting. The following staff members were elected:

- Frederick Childs, Managerial Sciences (elected for one year to complete the term of Rodney Lyn, who resigned his seat)
- MaryAnne Gaunt, Principals Center, Educational Policy Studies
- Sandra Garber, Administrative Services, College of Health and Human Sciences
- Bill Prigge, College of Law
- Phillip Mitchem, Experience Design Group

Committee Reports

MaryAnne Gaunt reported that the Cultural Diversity and Faculty Affairs committee are currently considering a motion to request that a domestic partner health plan be added to the current benefits options available to Georgia State employees. James Poulakos is a representative to the sub-committee that has developed the proposal.

Deborah Rupp announced that a staff retention task force has been established by the Senate Executive Committee. She, along with John Medlock, Ellen Posey, HR representatives, and others with expertise in this area will be members of the committee. Medlock noted that Rupp should be thanked for leading this effort on the Executive Committee.

Announcements

The chair shared several announcements with the group:

- Deb Rupp will be one of the recipients of the Sparks award this year for her work on behalf of university staff through Staff Council and the Senate, as well as her dedication to keeping staff, students, and faculty fit and energized through her work as an associate director of the Recreation Center.
- FACP has approved a plan to raise the salaries of over 70 staff member to a minimum annual salary of $19K.
- April 27 is Georgia State night at Six Flags from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Admission and a free ticket for use on another day is only $25.
• April 26 is the Family Day of Service, co-sponsored by the Leadership Academy of Women and the Office of Community Service. Volunteers will assist with the March of Dimes WalkAmerica at Centennial Olympic Park.
• The LAW is also seeking volunteers for a mural painting project at the Capitol Hill Child Enrichment Center April 23-27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Those interested in participating can contact Ranita Williams at bioraw@langate.gsu.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**Senate Committee Assignments:**

After the close of the meeting, new and returning senators met to determine senate committee membership. The assignments were set as follows:

• Academic Programs Committee - Sandra Garber
• Admissions and Standards Committee - John Medlock
• Athletics Committee - San Miller
• Budget Committee - Debbie Rupp & John Medlock
• Commencement Committee - San Miller
• Cultural Diversity Committee - Fredrick Childs & Gary Longstreet
• Faculty Affairs Committee - Mary Anne Gaunt
• Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President (FACP) - Shelly-Ann Williams
• Information Systems and Technology Committee - Phillip Mitchem
• Library Committee - Bill Prigge
• Planning and Development Committee - Sandra Garber & Phillip Mitchem
• Research Committee - Bill Prigge
• Student Life and Development Committee - Gary Longstreet
• University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee - Mary Anne Gaunt

*Recorded by John Medlock, Staff Relations Director*