GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2007
Room 465 University Center

Attending: Menetha Alston, Amber Amari, Annette Butler, Kevin Chappell, Frederick Childs, Cindy Clark, Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Earl Daniels, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Sharon German, Cherecia Kline, John Medlock, Kimberly Moore, Bill Prigge, LaRose Raston, Debbie Rupp, Shantavia Reid, Lisa Shepard, David Smart, Cassandra Thornton, Tawanna Tookes, Randy Trammell, Susan Vogtner, Anita Webb, Shelly-Ann Williams, Lawana Wimberly

Excused: Randall Alberts, Vanessa Brown, Gretchen Cannon, Denise Floyd, San Miller, Phillip Mitchem, Beverly Peters, James Poulakos, Christopher Robertson, Angela Turk, Henry Winston

Absent: Jessie Aaron, Sonda Abernathy, Eric Drayton, Toure Heywood, Gary Longstreet, Natasha Stark, Valerie Woods

Guests: Jackie Allen, Amanda Brown, DeShanna Brown, Angelica Lymon, LaTanja Melton, Kerry-Gaye Rainford

Opening Business:

Staff Council Chair Shelly-Ann Williams called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

Comments from President Patton

University President Carl Patton greeted the group for the new academic year. He noted that the number of students had increased and thanked staff for the important role they play this enrollment growth and its consequences. He reported that the new University Commons opened on time and under budget and that it was already at capacity with a waiting list. Plans are in place to develop additional student housing on campus. In addition, he officially announced that the university had purchased the Citizens Trust building across the street from the Commons, which will house the Counseling Center, IS&T offices (currently in classrooms), and administrative space. Construction is expected to begin on the Science Teaching Laboratory and Research Building this fall.

Staff Scholarship Awards
Staff Development chair Susan Vogtner announced the winners of the Fall Staff Scholarship Awards and Dr. Patton congratulated the recipients in attendance. The committee restricted the number of awards granted this term so that they could offer awards at more significant levels. Of the 25 applicants, seven were granted. The awardees were Fatima Adams, Amanda Brown, Sara Hunsberger, Anjelica Lymon, LaTanja Melton, Nara Monkam, and Kerry-Gaye Rainford. Vogtner expressed appreciation to the GSU Foundation for their gift to the Staff Scholarship Fund.

Staff Committee Reports:

**Staff Development** will continue to work to make the Staff Scholarship more prominent by promoting it and working to add funding to the program. The group plans to develop an attractive poster featuring a former awardee that will be on display at the Benefits Fair.

**Communications** is working on a draft of a communications plan, discussing a staff computer access policy, and developing a Staff Council brochure for the Benefits Fair.

**Events** is busy planning the seventh annual Benefits/Employee Information Fair, which will be on October 11. Volunteers are needed as well as items to give away at the event. A postmaster message will be sent campus-wide.

**Green Committee (Ad Hoc)** has plans to develop information about campus recycling programs and to find ways to collaborate with student groups.

**Staff Advancement and Retention (Ad Hoc)** is awaiting further developments involving the Senate Retention Task Force survey. The council members on the latter group are meeting today to discuss the survey.

Senate Committee Reports:

**Library:** The University Library is preparing for the grand opening of its renovated facilities. There will be a Saxby’s adjacent to the library.

**Research** has discussed a new university supercomputer to be used for research purposes. Staff turnover in the URSA and the new PERS system have also been committee topics.

**CAP** has approved proposals for USG e-franchises master’s programs in the College of Education. The group has also developed guidelines for developing such proposals.

**Faculty Affair**s has discussed, in conjunction with the Budget committee, a policy in compliance with the USG’s criminal background check requirement for new employees and those promoted into positions of trust. The group has also focused on developing a career path for Academic Professionals. Two administrative reviews are scheduled this year: VP of Development and Dean of Arts and Sciences.
Administrative Council discussed the strategic planning process. Shelly-Ann Williams indicated that she suggested staff retention and advancement be addressed in the action plan. The subcommittee charged with developing the university action plan met earlier in the week.

Diversity has plans to launch an African-American male project as a response to the need demonstrated in the campus climate survey last year. The group also plans to explore issues relating to disability services on campus.

Admissions and Standards has discussed a motion that will end student’s ability to initiate a WF grade. Many students do not seem to understand that this grade counts the same as an F.

Announcements:

- Deshanna Brown promoted the Campus Campaign program, which is still ongoing. Next year, they will likely return to the shorter window for contributing to the campaign. She announced that the Staff Scholarship fund will be included on the new giving form. The university has also contracted with an outside vendor to facilitate online giving.

- Deborah Rupp distributed information about the Staff Mentoring Program, which is sponsored by the Advancement of Women initiative. The goal of the program is to promote professional readiness among women through on-site mentoring. Mentors may be female or male university employees.

- Randy Trammell asked for anyone who has Staff Council photos to contact him at rtrammell@gsu.edu.

- Annette Butler announced the 2007-08 Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Professional Development Series. Those interested can register online at http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwafa/services.

- Rupp also reminded the group of the upcoming Kaiser-Permanente Run/Walk. 235 people have signed up thus far, with 70 volunteers as well.

- She also announced that the Day in the Park event is set for Thursday, October 25 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

- The Colonial Athletic Conference Blood drive will be held on September 25. Appointments can be made online.

- Shelly-Ann announced that the November meeting will need to be rescheduled earlier or later in the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

- 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