



GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2009

Sinclair Suite, Student Center

Attending: Randall Alberts, Joe Amador, Amber Amari, Colleen Blanchard, Bess Blyler, Gloria Brooks, Amanda Brown, Gretchen Cannon, Kevin Chappell, Ann Claycombe, Earl Daniels, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Nigel Harris, Carla Hines, Elisha Jarrett, Kendall Jones, John Medlock, Kevea Mickey, San Miller, Karmen Milton, Kimberly Moore, Beverly Peters, Bill Prigge, LaRose Raston, Andria Reddick, Preeti Sagar, Jowanna Tillman, Tawanna Tookes, Randy Trammel, Angela Turk, Susan Vogtner, Frances Williams, Valerie Woods, Shelly-Ann Williams

Excused: Cassandra Burney, Melody Harris, Phillip Mitchem, Kenee Stevens

Absent: Jess Aaron, David Caudill, Fred Childs, Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Sharon German, Toure Hetwood, Teresa Rucker, David Smart, John Streater, Cassandra Thornton, Kim Walker, Anita Webb, Henry Winston

Guests: Mark Becker, Cliveita L Caesar, Debbie Rupp, Carmela Pattilb, Michael Lendt, Brittany Polat, Colleen Byrd, Naomi Leader, Matthew K. Return, Helene Erenberg, Leon Staples, Menetha Alston

Opening Business

John Medlock called the meeting to order at 3:00. John welcomed council members to the first meeting of the new year. He indicated that he had high expectations for the future of the Council. The minutes from the November 19, 2008 Staff Council meeting were approved as presented.

Dr. Mark Becker Welcomed

Georgia State University's new president, Dr. Mark P. Becker, was welcomed by the Staff Council at the council's monthly meeting on January 21, 2008. Dr. Becker spoke to the council about his thoughts and plans as president.

Dr. Becker has worked in many positions at several institutions which helped him to understand the full breadth of a university. He has an understanding of jobs and functions that may not be known to all faculty, and Dr. Becker expressed his appreciation for every person at the University. He believes that an institution cannot thrive without the full community.

Dr. Becker believes that every person at Georgia State's single purpose should be to make a difference in the world. Education should be more than just a credential and it should be a life experience. Georgia State's position in downtown Atlanta gives us the opportunity to make a difference in the community. Dr. Becker recognized the presence that Dr. Patton created for Georgia State in the Atlanta community and would like to build on that.

Dr. Becker has been meeting with stakeholders to gain a better understanding of Georgia State University. In his meeting with the Governor, the state speaker, the general assembly members and state senators, he noted that people do recognize the importance of Georgia State University and appreciate the opportunities that it provides. He stated that he commonly hears that people are surprised and impressed by Georgia State University.

The governor has discussed the FY10 budget, but we still do not know much about the impact of the current economic downturn. It is possible that the budget situation could get worse in the future with further budget cuts. Dr. Becker has expressed the importance of not balancing the budget on the backs of higher education. The University has made it through this year and is moving forward.

Enrollment in January was up from previous years and the credit hours being taken by students is at a record high. It is predicted that enrollment will continue to rise. Applications for Fall semester are coming in at a record pace and the strength of the application is up as well.

The football program is still on track to begin in 2010. Progress has been made on the practice facilities. Future football players are on campus. Coach Curry has been recruiting football players and will sign with the players on National Signing Day, February 4, 2009. We will most likely sign 25 players who will all be red-shirted for their first year. Dr. Becker expressed his personal passion for college athletics and his respect for student athletes.

Dr. Becker stated that staff are an important voice on campus. He appreciates the staff's role as representatives on committees and on the senate. He hopes that staff will continue to share their voice.

What is on Dr. Beck's to-do list? He stated that his list is very long, but first of all Dr. Becker hopes to get to know many groups and individuals on campus. Georgia State University has many more stakeholders than most other businesses. He would like to reach out to each of these groups to understand the university's role. As president he is expected to raise money. He would also like to articulate a long term vision for the university.

Staff Scholarship

Andria Reddick and Dr. Becker presented the Staff Scholarship to the following recipients:

Naomi Leader
Brittany Polat
Shantina Knox
Audree Irons
Colleen Byrd
Cliveita Caesar
Omar Diego Ibarro

Bylaws

Randal Alberts made a motion to accept changes to the bylaws and the motion was passed. A document with tracked changes in the bylaws was sent to the council members prior to the meeting for review and all of the proposed changes were discussed at previous Staff Council meetings. This modification to the bylaws will add the new committee structure which would take effect in March of 2009. An orientation will be held for new members before the March meeting to explain the committees. The new committees will also be the focus of the 2009 Staff Council Retreat.

Committee Reports

Communications

Randy Trammel announced that the committee will be working on a spotlight feature on the Staff Council webpage. This feature will spotlight a different staff member each month. The committee felt that recognition is important and hopes that this will help build a feeling of community. If any council member would like to nominate a staff member, an email can be sent to Ann Claycombe.

Events

Kimberly Moore stated that input about the benefits fair would be appreciated. She hopes to have an evaluation that can be completed by attendees at future benefits fairs. Any input can be emailed to her.

Green Issues, ad hoc

Nigel Harris announced that the committee met with the Office of Civic Engagement, the Leadership Academy for Women, and the Student Sustainability Energy Tribe to discuss plans for Earth Day. The committee is working on a FAQ about energy and water conservation. The green bag lunches organized by the committee are also continuing.

Administrative Committee

Randal Alberts announced that nominations for open Staff Council seats were open.

Senate Reports

Academic Programs

Shelly-Ann Williams announced that the committee approved several new business concentrations.

Planning and Development

Sandra Garber stated that the strategic plan was approved and several Staff Council initiatives were included in the plan.

Capital Budget and Space

The committee approved Moves and Renovations funding.

IS&T

Randall Alberts announced that the Student Tech Fee process has begun. The committee is working on video standards.

Faculty Affairs

MaryAnne Gaunt stated that the committee was working on standards for presentation equipment on campus. The equipment should be able to relay emergency information.

FacP

John Medlock announced that the 6% budget cut for 2009 was accepted, but that a larger budget cut in 2010 was expected. Balancing the original budget will be challenging.

Staff Retention Task Force

Debbie Rupp announced that the report on staff retention was in the Senate Executive Committee. She will keep the Council informed of any updates. Debbie encouraged council members to promote the staff survey in the future. The survey gives staff members a voice about issues.

Announcements

- The staff and faculty basketball games will be February 23, 2009. A ticket and a box lunch will cost \$12.
- Nominations for Staff Council elections are open until February 2, 2009.
- Relay for Life will be held at Panthersville on April 2, 2009. This event benefits the American Cancer Society.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Recorded by Susan Vogtner.