Attending: Joe Amador, Amber Amari, Mathieu Arp, Colleen BlanchardBrenda Blyler, Gloria Brooks, Cassandra Burney, Gretchen Cannon, David Caudill, Kevin Chappell, Frederick Childs, Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Earl Daniels, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Sharon German, Melody Harris, Nigel Harris, Carla Hines, Elisha Jarrett, Kendall Jones, John Medlock, Kevea Mickey, Phillip Mitchem, Kimberly Moore, Bill Prigge, LaRose Raston, Andria Reddick, Shatanese Reese, Preeti Sagar, David Smart, John StreaterJowanna Tillman, Tawanna Tookes, Randy Trammell, Angela Turk, Susan Vogtner, Kimberly Walker, Anita Webb, Frances Williams, Shelly-Ann Williams

Excused: Randall Alberts, Teresa Rucker, Henry Winston, Valerie Woods

Absent: Jessie Aaron, Sonda Abernathy, Amanda Brown, Toure Heywood, Karmen Milton, Beverly Peters, Cassandra Thornton, Cherecia Kline

Guests: Kenée Stephens, Debbie Rupp, Candice Long

Opening Business
John Medlock called the meeting to order at 3:00. The minutes from the March 19, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

Staff Representatives for Senate Positions
There were 4 vacant positions for staff representations. The candidates that were present were introduced. The council members were presented with a ballot of all of the candidates and voted to elect Shelly-Ann Williams, Kenée Stephens, San Miller, and Randall Alberts.

New Members Welcomed
The council welcomed new members. Several members were appointed to vacant positions from areas in which no one was elected. New members were directed to speak with LaRose Raston to join a committee. Any members that had interest in another committee or wished to join multiple committees were also asked to speak with LaRose.

Committee Reports

Benefits
Matt Harp stated that the committee had nothing to report.

Events
Kimberly Moore reported that the committee was focusing on the Benefits/Employee Information Fair. The committee is currently working on finalizing a date for the fair. She asked that any suggestions for the fair be sent to kmoore@gsu.edu. They will also be working on the retreat.

Communications
Randy Trammell reported that the committee will be creating a news item with the highlights of each meeting. The news item can be sent to constituents and posted on the webpage. Each Information Liaison can customize the announcement for his or her district.

Staff Development
Andria Reddick announced that the committee would be continuing to work on the GED/ESL program. They will also be marketing the Staff Scholarship.

Administrative Committee
Phillip Mitchem stated that the committee was continuing to work on filling vacant Staff Council positions. They plan on working on the bylaws and elections this year. This committee could use more members.

Senate Reports

FACP (Fiscal Advisory Committee for the President)
Shelly Ann Williams reported that the committee discussed the budget. $200,000 was allotted for staff salary compression. A 2½% raise pool was approved. It was clarified that Shelly Ann will stay on the committee until the budget was approved. After approval, John Medlock will begin his term on the committee.

Faculty Affairs
MaryAnne Gaunt announced that the committee was working on updates to the faculty handbook. Most of the content is mandated by the Board of Regents. She suggested that the committee develop a mechanism to apprise people of updates to the manual. One of the most notable changes is a requirement to inform one’s supervisor if charged with a crime within 3 days. They are also working on a promotion policy for faculty. John Medlock noted that Staff Council has a charge to review policy that affects staff.

Cultural and Diversity
Kenee Stephens announced that the committee is reviewing the policy for the review of the perspectives courses and examining the true goals of those courses.

Student Life
Kenée Stephens reported that the committee would go on a ‘smoke walk’ to determine if the smoking policies on campus were being following. John Medlock suggested that the committee work with the council’s Green Issues ad hoc committee, which has already explored this issue in depth.
President Patton Thanked
Debbie Rupp thanked Dr. Carl Patton for his years of service to the University and his support of the staff and the Staff Council. The council presented Dr. Patton with a large card signed by many staff and a donation to the Staff Scholarship fund for over $2100. Dr. Patton thanked the staff for the card and the donation to the scholarship. He also thanked the staff for all their hard work. He stated that staff can be taken for granted and he did not want to do that. Dr. Patton plans to stay in the area and remain involved in the University. He hopes his successor will be able to have a successful capital campaign and raise $500 million for student scholarships.

Information Liaison
It was discussed that information may not be making it to the constituents. Each district with more than one representative was asked to elect a person to act as that group’s Information Liaison and be responsible for disseminating information to the constituents. Each district should email LaRose Raston with the name of their Information Liaison.

Staff Council Retreat
The Staff Council’s annual retreat will be on June 12, 2008 at the Indian Creek Lodge beginning at 8:30 AM. The retreat will give the council the opportunity to plan the year and focus on important issues. Time will be allotted for committee discussion as well.

Committee Action Items
The council was presented with a document containing each committee’s action items for the year. The list was developed by the BOO and the Executive Committee. This is a working document that can be modified and expanded as committees meet.

Ad Hoc Committees
Green Issues Ad Hoc Committee
The state of Georgia asked state agencies to review their ‘green’ initiatives. With the council already having this committee formed it puts us ahead. The committee will continue for another year.

Staff Retention Ad Hoc Committee
The efforts of the committee will be moved to the Benefits Committee and this ad hoc committee will be disbanded. The University has a committee working on similar issues. Fred Childs was thanked for his continued work on staff advancement and for moving to the Benefits committee.

Council Organization
An ad hoc committee is being created to examine the committee structure of the Staff Council.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.
Recorded by Susan Vogtner.