



**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2010

Sinclair Suite

Attending: Menetha Alston, Amber Amari, Bess Blyler, Cassandra Burney, Gretchen Cannon, David Caudill, Kevin Chappell, Ann Claycombe, Casey Heath, Anjelica Lymon, John Medlock, Karmen Milton, Kimberly Moore, Mike Raderstorf, Preeti Sagar, Lisa Shepard, David Smart, Jowanna Tillman, Susan Vogtner, Anita Webb, Rhonda Williams, Lillian Winfrey, Sandra Garber, Mary Anne Gaunt, San Miller, Bill Prigge, Kenee Stephens.

Excused: Colleen Blanchard, Gloria Brooks, Amanda Brown, Stephanie Echols, Gregori Faroux, Cindy Forrest, Nigel Harris, Teresa Rucker, Angela Turk, Randall Alberts, Shelly-Ann Williams.

Absent: Katina Akins, James Amann, Kwaku Andoh, Eric Ashford, Sharon German, Melody Harris, Carla Hines, Elisha Jarrett, Keisha Jones, Kevea Mickey, Trelley Murray, Kristal Perkins, Beverly Peters, Shundra Presti, LaRose Raston, Andria Reddick, Anne Simmons, John Streater, Tawanna Tookes, Kimberly Walker, Henry Winston.

Guests: Markita Grant, Quiana Howard, Shamecia Powers, Robin Mladinich, Nabila Gomes, Leon Staples, Oyin Jones.

Opening Business

David Caudill called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The minutes from the November meeting were approved with no revisions.

Staff Scholarships

The spring staff scholarships were formally awarded.

Elections Update

The deadline for nominations for both the Staff Senator and Staff Council elections is January 29.

All Staff Senate applications will be posted to the Staff Council web site, and an election forum will be held in the second week of February. The vote will be held at the Staff Council's February meeting.

The Staff Council elections will be held online as usual, with the voting period to run from 2/8 to 2/19.

Strategic Plan report

Sandra Garber, who is on the Strategic Planning committee, reported that the committee had held a one-day retreat to work with consultants to plan the process. The committee was scheduled to head out on Jan. 21 to Arizona State in Phoenix to learn more about their strategic planning process, with Garber in particular planning to meet with high-level staff administrators.

Garber also reminded council members that Dr. Becker had asked for staff input about what they think the university is and should be; an e-mail address for this input was included in the most recent Letter from the Desk of the President.

Staff Council Committee Reports

Administrative: Had been working to implement a new process for the Senate elections, including an expanded application and a forum.

Staff Development and Advancement: The ESL graduation celebration is scheduled for the end of the month.

Staff Recognition: Finalized the scholarship recipients.

Work-Life: Is exploring the idea of creating a Craigslist-like online community for Georgia State.

Executive: The Executive Committee wrote a letter to Dr. Becker expressing its concerns over the university's recent handling of inclement weather; David Caudill passed out hard copies of the letter to all present.

Ad Hoc Staff Climate Committee: Has been working with University Relations to implement a staff climate survey, which will be very similar to the last staff climate survey.

Senate Committee Reports

Admin Council: Approved a revised study-abroad policy that is a one-page summary of existing rules. The new enrollment numbers are out: in the spring, the University will decline slightly from 30,000 students back into the 29,000's. There is also a legislative update: there are new leaders in the State House, and the Speaker Pro Tem is a GSU alum.

Academic Programs: The Board of Regents has approved a new policy allowing a lot more flexibility in core curricula between institutions in the system. Georgia State will have to propose changes quickly, and will also have to work out how to handle transfer credits from institutions with a different core.

Commencement: The Ph.D. program at the Rialto went very well, and the new regalia for Ph.D.'s is very popular.

Cultural Diversity: The new retention rates report is out. Kenee Stephens promised to forward the report to all staff members. The committee may revisit hiring policies for faculty.

Library: Due to budget considerations, the library will be forced to make another round of cuts in subscriptions.

Other Business

Furloughs: We will most likely not have any additional furlough days this fiscal year, and we definitely will not add any more unless other state institutions – which are currently planning for six furlough days – go up to more than eight.

Talent showcase: Dethra Giles has taken over the planning for an employee talent showcase in the spring. The plan currently is to hold it on April 28. HR will most likely ask Staff Council to help with marketing and ticket sales.