Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009
Lanier Suite, Student Center


Excused: Amber Amari, Kevin Chappell, Kimberly Moore, Lisa Shepard, David Smart, Bill Prigge, Anita Webb.


Guests: Debbie Rupp.

Opening Business
David Caudill called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The minutes from the September meeting were approved with minor revisions.

Athletics Presentation
Representatives from the Athletics Department spoke about their effort to reach out across campus, including to staff and their families. Their initiatives include the following:
- A 20 percent discount on season tickets for basketball and football for staff members.
- Family Days at basketball games, with packages that include tickets, hot dogs and drinks for up to four people.
- A Toys for Tots collection at the December 22 basketball game.

Bylaws changes
The Staff Council considered and voted on four proposed bylaws changes. First, the council heard a presentation of arguments for and against the changes, made by Randall Alberts and Ann Claycombe. Votes were taken on each with results as follows (the
formal language for each proposal, as well as the relevant arguments, are recorded elsewhere in Staff Council records):

1. A proposal to define the staff senate term to start at the beginning of the staff council year was passed.
2. A proposal to move staff senate elections to February was approved.
3. A proposal to disqualify staff senate ballots that did not have the maximum number of possible votes recorded on them was voted down.
4. A proposal to impose term limits on staff senators was voted down.

One note: bylaws changes must be made by a two-thirds majority of a quorum.

Staff Service Discussion
The Work-Life Committee has written a letter to Human Resources requesting that service be added as an optional category to annual evaluations for staff. The council discussed the letter, including raising questions about how service is to be defined, and the need to train supervisors so that service does not become a de facto mandatory category.

The letter was approved by majority vote, with one change: moving the suggested effective date of the proposal from FY 2010 to FY2011, in order to leave more time for proper preparation and training.

Committee Reports
- Work-Life has just finished the letter discussed in the previous section. The committee is researching successful alternate- and compressed-schedule policies at other institutions, especially Cornell University, which has had a successful program for many years.
- Staff Development and Advancement has succeeded in obtaining discounts for staff on preparatory courses for the GRE and the GED. The first class of staff members is also currently in a GSU-provided ESL class.
- Staff Recognition just held a very successful cake-walk at the Day in the Park, raising roughly $150 for the Staff Scholarship Fund. The application deadline for the spring Staff Scholarship is December 4.
- Communication is continuing to produce a Staff Spotlight each month, introducing the community to individual staff members and their efforts.
- Community Relations is wrapping up its planning for the annual Employee Information/Benefits Fair, which was scheduled for the day after this meeting.
- The Senate P&D Committee is considering problems with the new ADP system.

Announcements
- A Senate subcommittee, whose members include Amber Amari and Bill Prigge, is researching the problems in the ADP system in order to present a comprehensive report. Staff members who have records of these problems - *not* just anecdotal evidence – are encouraged to contact either Amber or Bill.
- The November Staff Council meeting will take place in the Rialto Center, and will include a presentation by the Rialto on their programs. Provost Risa Palm is scheduled to attend the meeting. President Mark Becker was invited to the meeting but will be unable to attend due to a previously scheduled trip.