



## GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2009

Rialto Center Lobby

**Attending:** Katina Akins, Amber Amari, Colleen Blanchard, Bess Blyler, Gloria Brooks, Amanda (Brown) Pellerin, Gretchen Cannon, David Caudill, Ann Claycombe, Stephanie Echols, Cindy Forrest, Nigel Harris, Casey Heath, Anjelica Lymon, Kevea Mickey, Kimberly Moore, Trelley Murray, Shundra Presti, Mike Raderstorf, Preeti Sagar, , Lisa Shepard, Anne Simmons, David Smart, John Streater, Jowanna Tillman, Angela Turk, Susan Vogtner, Randall Alberts, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Kenee Stephens, Shelly-Ann Williams.

**Excused:** Melody Harris, John Medlock, Beverly Peters, LaRose Raston, Andria Reddick, Anita Webb, Rhonda Williams, Lillian Winfrey, San Miller, Bill Prigge.

**Absent:** Menetha Alston, James Amann, Kwaku Andoh, Eric Ashford, Cassandra Burney, Kevin Chappell, Gregori Faroux, Sharon German, Carla Hines, Elisha Jarrett, Keisha Jones, Karmen Milton, Kristal Perkins, Teresa Rucker, Kimberly Walker, Henry Winston.

**Guests:** Derrick Morse, Leon Staples.

### Opening Business

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

### Provost Risa Palm

Dr. Palm spoke to Staff Council about the Strategic Plan and other university issues. Highlights from her comments included:

- Under the new Second Century Initiative, GSU will attempt to add targeted clusters of faculty, especially in interdisciplinary areas, to build on existing strengths.
- The committee to write the university's next Strategic Plan has been formed, and will include Staff Senator Sandra Garber. The committee hopes to go to Arizona State to learn how that university used a strategic plan to make important changes.
- The economy is still a concern, obviously. Palm said the university needs to position itself to take advantage of the eventual recovery.
- She said retaining staff is a key part of student services and the larger quality of the university.

## **Rialto Center Presentation**

Leslie Gordon, director of the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts, gave a brief presentation on the theater and its programs. She mentioned that the center offers discounted tickets to staff, and also allows staff to buy a subscription package through payroll deductions. After the Staff Council meeting, tours of the Rialto were available.

## **H1N1 update**

Mike Raderstorf, director of Emergency Management, said that the high-risk groups on campus had largely been vaccinated, and that the university's supply of H1N1 was now available to all staff and faculty. Vaccinations will also be opened up to dependents soon, he said.

## **Committee Reports**

Most of the meeting was devoted to reports from Staff Council and Senate committees.

Staff Council Committees:

- *Communications*. The Communications Committee has continued with the monthly Spotlight program, and is planning the second quarterly Staff Council column in the Villager. The committee will create a new section of the web site for the upcoming Senate Elections. The committee is also proposing to create stickers or magnets that council members could put on their doors to raise the council's visibility.
- *Executive*. The Executive Committee has been tentatively planning for a holiday brunch meeting for the council, most likely on December 8. More information to come.
- *Staff Recognition*. The SR committee is getting ready for the first on-line round of Staff Scholarship applications. The committee is also putting together a list of staff recognition opportunities for the web site, and is planning a staff talent showcase for the spring.
- *Sustainability*. The committee has been working with Dean Brook on a conservation FAQ, and is also working to make sure Earth Day efforts are coordinated across campus.
- *Community Relations*. The CR committee met to debrief after the fall Benefits Fair, which attracted 1094 people. The committee is also encouraging all Staff Council members to participate in Toys for Tots or Project Healthy Grandparents' Christmas program.
- *Staff Development and Advancement*. The SDA committee has done everything on its list for the year already! The Toastmasters group has met; the first ESL class is graduating; the committee has sponsored three brownbag lunches for career development; and succeeded in obtaining a staff discount for preparatory courses for the GRE, LSAT and MCAT.
- *Work-Life*. The Work-Life committee is finishing up a memo to ask for performance to be added as a category in staff evaluations. The committee is also looking into the following issues: alternative schedules and telecommuting; alternative rewards during a time of furloughs and no raises; and the possibility of a staff meal plan at the new dining hall.

Senate and other University Committees:

- *Administrative Council*. Has discussed a variety of topics, including H1N1 contingency plans and the fire that threatened the CHARA array on Mt. Wilson in California. There have also been discussions re: the university's Second Century Initiative (2CI).
- *Budget*. The budget subcommittee on ADP prepared a report, and also asked for and got the university to hold weekly forums on the system. The subcommittee is continuing to push for those forums to be more informative and communicative.
- *Cultural Diversity* is working on ADP issues.
- *FACP* has approved an increase in the College of Law differential tuition, and an increase in the undergraduate admission fee. There have been discussions re: the university's Second Century Initiative (2CI). And there have been extensive discussions regarding the university and state budget and how best to implement the employee RIF's and furloughs necessary as a result of the state budget crisis.
- *IS&T* is considering tech fee proposals for this year.
- *Research* is discussing changes in transfer agreements, as well as written policies for postdoctoral associates and fellows.
- *Student Life* was scheduled to meet the next day.
- *Administrative and Standards* approved a new academic calendar.