Attending: Menetha Alston, James Amann, Amber Amari, Colleen Blanchard, Brenda Blyler, Gloria Brooks, Gretchen Cannon, David Caudill, Kevin Chappell, Ann Claycombe, Stephanie Eckols, Cindy Forrest, Kevea Mickey, Kimberly Moore, Beverly Peters, Rene Presti, Mike Raderstorf, LaRose Raston, Andria Reddick, Preeti Sagar, Lisa Shepard, Anne Simmons, David Smart, John Streeter, Jowanna Tillman, Susan Vogtner, Rhonda Williams, Lillian Winfrey, Randal Alberts, Sandra Garber, San Miller, Kenee Stephens.


Guests: Leon Staples, Deb Rupp, Cheryl Johnson Ranshaw, Oyin Jones Mitchell, Pamela Franklin, Dawn Foster.

Opening Business
David Caudill called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The minutes from the July 15 meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker – Leon Staples
Leon Staples announced upcoming events from Human Resources. First, a Walk and Talk club will be meeting at the campus gym every Tuesday at noon to go for a half-mile walk – outside if the weather is good, and inside on rain days. The program is free, but participants are encouraged to call and plan so the organizers know how many people to expect.

Also, the fall employee development calendar is coming out, including information about the Staff Scholarship program.

Finally, Staples spoke about the upcoming Panther PERQs fair scheduled for Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Veteran’s Memorial Hall. Vendors who offer employee discounts will be on hand to answer questions and help employees sign up. One vendor, BJ’s
Warehouse, will donate $5 to the Staff Scholarship Fund for every employee that signs up.

**Budget News**

David Caudill spoke briefly about the budget situation, including the planned furloughs and last week’s Reductions in Force. Joe Amador, the chair of the administrative committee, was one of the staff members RIFed. Anne Simmons is taking his seat on the Council, but the Council will have to find a new chair for the administrative committee.

Staff Council members then proposed a series of questions about the furloughs. After the meeting, Caudill submitted the questions to University Relations for inclusion in the upcoming university town hall meetings or the budget FAQ on the university budgetnews webpage. The questions were as follows:

- How will furloughs affect new hires - will they be prorated? And are we informing people about the furloughs in their hiring letters?

- How will the furloughs be applied to staff members who are retiring before the end of FY2010?

- How will furloughs apply to staff members on FMLA leave? Are there differences between taking paid and unpaid FMLA leave?

- Will the furloughs affect the benefit calculations for TRSGA member employees who are retiring in the next two years?

- If you take all of your furlough days at once, do you qualify for unemployment benefits?

- How will furloughs be applied to employees who work at less than 1 FTE (for staff) or .75 FTE (for faculty)?

- If there is an emergency closing during FY2010, how will that closing affect employees who had registered for that day as a furlough day?

**Pandemic Emergency Planning Presentation**

Mike Raderstorf, who is the university’s Emergency Management Director, gave a brief presentation on the planning efforts of the University Pandemic Task Force in relation to the return of the H1N1 influenza virus this fall.

Raderstorf emphasized that the H1N1 virus has about the same virulence (strength) than normal seasonal flu in its current form, but that the strain could mutate, so the university has planned both for likely scenarios and worst-case scenarios. He presented some facts about the disease, including symptoms, high-risk groups, and infectious windows.
Most likely, the university could see up to 30 percent absenteeism during the peak of the flu season this fall; which will be higher than normal but should not interfere with daily operations.

If the virus mutates into a more dangerous form (causing higher case fatality ratios) and reaches a threshold in which a Public Health Emergency is declared, the university has an established agreement with the Fulton County Health & Wellness Department in order to implement a mass dispensing plan for vaccines and antiviral treatments to faculty, staff and students.

The university will begin a campaign in the near future to educate students about disease-preventing hygiene and future vaccination/treatment procedures. There will be a web site with information including general and university specific H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions ([www.gsu.ed/flu](http://www.gsu.ed/flu)). In the meantime, staff members who work in small offices should consider cross-training so that co-workers could cover each other’s duties.

**Reports**

Committee reports were delayed until the next meeting. There were two announcements, however:

- Deb Rupp spoke about the Kaiser Permanente Fun Run, and encouraged staff members to participate and/or volunteer.
- LaRose Raston announced the fall deadline for the Staff Scholarship is coming up this Friday.