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Staff Council Meeting Minutes

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Georgia Southern University

Staff Council

October 21, 2009

Members Present: Amber Blair, Jane Harkleroad, Patricia Hendrix, Bryan Hooks, Paul Michaud, Janet Walker, Alan Woodrum, Michael Waters, Kent Tatum, Kimberly Robinson, Laura Saunders, Krey Tinker, Linda Smith, Sandy Seibel, Jo-Lyn Bender, America Minc

Absent: Laura McCullough, Cindy Durden, Allison Hood

Call to order at 9:00am in the Marvin Pittman Conference Room.

Approval of September Minutes

Alan Woodrum made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed, and Nicki Newton provided the second. Minutes were approved.

Opening remarks

Bryan Hooks gave everyone a state wide staff council update and indicated the benefits of this positive networking experience. In October 2012, the statewide staff conference will be on campus, co-hosted with Savannah State. There was discussion of future conference coordination and travel restrictions. There was discussion of the standard treasury report statewide. USGSC Communications wants to set up a web blog. Their theme as "Standup/Stand Out." It is important as a Staff Council to let our voices be heard. We need to increase our dialogue with administration. At USGSC, there was discussion of a Staff Council role in statewide furlough decisions. Wayne Guthrie, Vice Chancellor for HR was asked what his expectations are from the Statewide Staff Council, and his feeling was more of communication rather than shared governance. B. Hooks encouraged us to speak up, even when we disagree. America Minc asked what the faculty senate budget is compared to staff council. There was discussion over budget allocations.

Treasurer Report

Michael Waters explained our current budget. We currently have \$13,688.45, with no new additions from last month. He will check with Cindy about the balance from the awards last year. Paul Michaud suggested setting up a system to implement a cut-off date for gifts.

Merit Awards

Laura Saunders will look into parking permits as gifts for merit awards. A. Woodrum is chairing the merit awards sub-committee. The sub-committee consists of Laura Saunders, Linda Smith, Nicki Newton, Kent Tatum, America Minc, and Janet Walker.

Smoke-Free Campus Initiative Update

- A. Minc is getting the sub-committee on the calendars of PC, Faculty Senate and SGA. The sub-committee is looking to the Student Alliance for a Greener Earth and the Biology Club for additional buy-in. America asked the council to review the resolution she distributed and to respond to her with edits by 10/22/09.

University of Florida is taking on a similar mission, but there are no other institutions like GSU currently pursuing tobacco-free status, so we will be the first. Students interested in helping can contact America. Linda Smith suggested meeting with the opposition separately and have them submit their concerns to us. M. Waters suggested an open forum. B. Hooks's staff is calculating three days of litter maintenance for cigarette butts—October 21, 22, 23rd. There is also a safety issue with doors being propped open after hours—Barry Hackle can get us data for this issue.

Guideline Committee

The sub-committee has been busy. An edited version was distributed. The items in green have been approved. The items in peach need voting on.

There was discussion of item C3 on whether to fill now or wait until the new term starts.

E2-- the Vice Chair is the Chair Elect. No motion necessary.

A. Woodrum made a motion to pass all guidelines except B2, which will be voted on in August of 2010. L. Smith provided the second. None opposed, motion passed.

Presidential Report Sub-committee

It was decided that we will provide a summary report for the new President regarding the role, expectations, accomplishments and needs of Staff Council. Amber Blair will chair this committee. A. Minc and L. Smith will assist. This should be complete by the December meeting. We will take a group picture at the November meeting. A. Minc will arrange the photographer.

Staff Council website

Jo-Lyn Bender indicated that the December meeting date needs to be corrected on the website. B. Hooks will notify Keeley. A. Minc asked about website development.

Human Resources-Paul Michaud

Paul Michaud discussed benefit changes for the new year. Employees with dependents must add their SSN in ADP during open enrollment! There is a push for the high deductible plan. For PPOs, there is no in state/ out of state network, it is all one as long as they are in the BCBS network. Mail order prescriptions are expanded. The indemnity plan is discontinued. The dental yearly max is increasing to \$1200. There will be a separate orthodontia program. HMO plan is increasing by 12.24%.

November 2-6, employees can participate in state charitable contributions online.

There will be a furlough category in ADP to enter furlough days.

Dr. Grube

Dr. Grube shared the final fall enrollment of 19,089 with the council. This includes 400 new freshmen. Enrollment in fall 2008 was 17766. The additional 1333 is not all freshmen. The sophomore class is larger, indicating a 1% retention rate increase. Graduate students are up @ 300, and increased online enrollment all contribute.

Meeting adjourned 11:25am.

Professionally submitted,

Amber Blair

Secretary