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Staff Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Human Resources

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5-20-2022

## Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Georgia Southern University

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**Staff Council Meeting**  
**May 20, 2022**  
**Zoom | 9 a.m.**

**Administration/Guests:** Dr. Cary Christian, Dr. Carl Reiber, Leigh Price,, Dr. Kyle Marrero, Ron Stalnaker, and Vickie Shaw.

**Staff Council:** Andrew Durden, Anne-Marie Grayson, Brian Mizeski, Catherine Bishop, Cinnamon Dowd; Courtney Cheshire, DeAnn Lewis, Devon Hodges, George Allen Stovall, Greg Surette, Hollie Sisk, Janee Cardell, Jeff Blythe, Jessica Hersey, J. Ben Wicker, Jodi Kennedy, Jonathan McCollar, Kelly Crosby, Kimberly Couch, Lauren Tremble, Lindsey Michaud, Matthew Pulliam, Matthew Reynolds, Matthew Shingler, Michael Murphy, Philip Leroy, Scott Taylor, T. David Henry, Tajae Francis, Tiffany Courdin, Victoria Brannen, Will Avra. **Regrets:** Annette Ramos, Audra Taylor, Betsy Reaves, Hal McCool, John Ramjford, Leigh Johnson, Nichole Booker, Trina Smith. Absent: n/a

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Consent Agenda and Minutes of Meeting**

- **Adoption of consent agenda**
  - Motion to adopt by Philip Leroy; seconded by Brian Mizeski. None opposed.

**Presidential Updates & Comments | Updates from Dr. Kyle Marrero are as follows:**

- Apx 5,800 completed degrees spring/summer 2022
- Staff Picnics: Monday, May 23 on Statesboro Campus; Wednesday, May 25 on Armstrong Campus
- Bringing back summer celebration with ice cream in July; more details to follow.
- The Governor approved a 13th paid holiday for the state. Juneteenth will now be a paid holiday, and we will have a holiday on June 20, 2022.
- Searches: AVP Chief Diversity Office Search, 51 applications; Zoom interviews next week (May 26-27); First few weeks of June will have finalists on campuses; Virtual options to participate as well.
- Convocation Center Groundbreaking, May 26 at 2:30 p.m. at the southwest side of the intersection of Lanier Drive and Veterans Memorial Parkway (US 301 bypass); Named after Jack and Ruth Ann Hill.
- Wexford Campus is beginning again with students since the pandemic. Sending a group out to work on housing and research opportunities.
  - Alumni group going as well the first week of June.
- Logistics Technology Innovation Accelerator Grand Opening June 28 at the Coastal Georgia Center.
  - Goal is to have 20 startups a year; our goal is to assist with the first three months to get them started and keep them in the Southeast Georgia area.
- Budget → Performance Excellence Tab (accessible to everyone)
  - Enrollment earnings were approximately \$3 million. The University is investing \$1 million and holding back \$2 million to see where fall 2022 enrollment falls.
  - Special Institutional Fee elimination will save our students money (total of \$14 million that has been restored by the state).
- Enrollment: 27,091 in fall 2021; right now we are hedging that we could be down as much as 1.18% in enrollment for fall 2022, and we could cover that with the money we are holding back from previous enrollment earnings.
  - Projecting to be in the high 26,000s.
  - If enrollment is higher than expected, we can reinvest the previous enrollment earnings.



- Making up some of the enrollment in graduate programs; expected growth.
  - In the state of Georgia, high school applications for FASFA are down 29% compared to this time last year; showing a trend that high school seniors are not moving towards a university and college environment. Job market is rich right now with no degree required to make \$18-\$20 starting.
  - We will have more incentives moving forward to entice freshmen applications. Each of you can make or break a prospective student from coming in and current students remaining at Georgia Southern. “All hands on deck.”
    - We are faring much better than other colleges in the USG.
  - We have the potential to host the first round of the NCAA Championships if the baseball team continues to win.
- **Questions and Answers:**
    - **Q:** Could we talk about the Enmarket Arena collaboration?
      - **A:** Our goal is to do our commencement ceremonies there. We were unable to do so this spring due to parking issues, but those should be resolved by December. We hope to, then, have the Fall Commencement ceremonies in that facility. With our marketing partnership, we do not pay rent for our commencement ceremonies.

This concluded updates from Dr. Marrero.

**Human Resources | Updates from Vickie Shaw**, Interim AVP for Human Resource, are as follows:

- June 20, 2022 we will observe the Juneteenth holiday (on June 19) – Administrative Offices will be closed.
  - Professional Development Manager has been hired; Amanda Maynard starts June 13.
    - One of her first tasks will be to complete the in-person new employee orientation.
  - Updated letters in the My.GS portal reflecting the permanent change to your salary coming soon.
  - Benefits Fair will return to in-person with an online option as well.
- **Questions and Answers:**
    - **Q:** Will the new employee orientation be campus-specific?
      - **A:** Yes.

This concluded updates from Human Resources.

**Treasurer Report | Matthew Pulliam**

- Shelley Merrick Textbook Scholarship Fund = \$3,400.75
- Staff Council Advisory Discretionary Fund = \$583.63
- General Staff Council Account = \$1,994.93
- Staff Development Account = \$2,401.58

**Committee Reports**

- **By-Laws Committee** by DeAnn Lewis (for Kelly Crosby, Chair)
  - We had a glitch in the council election process. Many of the current employees are also students at the University. The ballot may have been sent to some of the employees’ student email addresses. Due to this, the election voting process has been extended to May 31.
  - Proposed By-Law Amendments:
    - [Committees and Structure](#)
    - [Officers](#)
    - [Elections and Vacancies](#)



- **Communications Committee** by Courtney Cheshire, Chair
  - Staff Who SOAR Staff Council Webpage
    - <https://jobs.georgiasouthern.edu/staffcouncil/staff-who-soar/>
      - Will be updated twice a month.
- **Fundraising and Scholarship Committee** by Hal McCool, Chair
  - No updates at this time.
- **Staff Development Committee** by Hollie Sisk and Brian Mizeski, co-chairs
  - No updates at this time.
- **Staff Outreach and Special Events Committee** by Andrew Durden and Devon Hodges, co-chairs
  - Save the Date for Staff Picnics: Monday, May 23 in Statesboro and Wednesday, May 25 in Savannah.
- **President's Diversity Advisory Council (PDAC)** by Scott Taylor, Staff Council representative on PDAC
  - Process to fill the AVP of Inclusive Excellence position. "Get Inclusive" training opportunities in your My.GS portal.

#### **Old Business**

- No old business to discuss.

#### **New Business**

- No new business to discuss.

#### **Important Dates**

- Next Staff Council meeting: Friday, June 17 at 9 a.m.
- May 11-23: Staff Council Elections; Newly elected members will be announced June 1
- Annual Staff Picnic:
  - Monday, May 23, Statesboro Campus, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
  - Wednesday, May 25, Armstrong Campus, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- August 5: Operation Move-In Volunteers Needed
  - <https://georgiasouthernuniversity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=60980>

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

- Motion made to adjourn by Jodi Kennedy; seconded by Philip Leroy. None opposed.

#### **Meeting Adjourned.**

*Minutes recorded and submitted by Cinnamon Dowd.*