

**Present:** Premalatha Balachandran, Paula Beard, Eric Blakely, Kristina Boggan, Jeffrey Boyd, Joey Brent, Kim Chrestman, Missy Downey, Doug Gurley, Valerie Haynes, Kelly Houston, Natcha Knight-Evans, Shelley McGraw, Felisa Redmond, Johnette Taylor-Jenkins, Precious Thompson, Jacqueline Vinson, Amanda Walker, and Nicki Weaver.

**Absent-Excused:** Jessica Coker, Tiffany Edwards, Alicia Goodson, Paul Goolsby, Shelia Goolsby, Melinda Grimmatt, Carl Hill, Julius Minor, Merrill Magruder, Raymus Purnell, Pamela Smith, Patricia Stewart and Deetra Wiley.

**Absent-Unexcused:** Ginger Patterson

**Roll call:** (Sign-in sheet)

**Call to Order:** The August 9 Staff Council meeting was called to order by President Amanda Walker at 10:31a.m.

**Communication Progress:**

The newsletter content was submitted. It contained the smoking policy and sensation programs with that policy; communication improvements through social media and brochures; upcoming events for the fall semesters, Awards Day winners held in May, and how the overall staff can communicate with members of the council. The brochures will mainly be used for those newly hired staff members. The brochures will be printed and distributed throughout the four UM campuses. The website will go live the week of August 13.

**Report from Monthly Meeting with Chancellor:**

The meeting with the Chancellor went well. He expressed his concern on us having a weak area in communication the past year, but is pleased with the improvements we are working towards. The Chancellor asked that we be as active and vocal as we can to other staff members keeping them informed on what is going on with Staff Council.

**July Minutes:**

The July minutes, was approved with two corrections by moving Nicki Weaver from unexcused to excuse in July Meeting and changing the meeting time from 10:00am to 10:30am. Motion to approve the minutes was by Jeff Boyd and seconded by Joey Brent...Approved by Consensus. The minutes are sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Jacqueline Vinson (jvinson@olemiss.edu).

**June and July Treasurer Reports:**

Funds for the previous budgets did carry over to the next fiscal year including left over textbook scholarship funds. Some of the textbook scholarship funds are used from a 25 account being if we do not use it; we lose it. It was asked, "What is the salary cut-off for staff members? Staff Members who make over 50K are not eligible for the scholarship. It was also asked, "If funds in the regular scholarship account are not used could it be taken into consideration to let staff members making over 50K use the funding?"

The motion was moved by Kelly Houston and seconded by Premalatha Balachandran to approve the June Treasurer Report. The motion was moved by Joey Brent and seconded by Missy Downey to approve the July Treasurer Report...approved by consensus. **Melinda Grimmett resigned the treasurer position. It was agreed by all that Nicki Weaver, will serve as new staff council treasurer.** The treasurer report is sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Nicki Weaver nicwea@olemiss.edunicwea@olemiss.edu. Contact Daniel Morgan, HR to give time donations for Elaine Little.

Nomination by Kim Chrestman was taken on selection of a Staff Member of the Month. Council voted on the nominee and affirmed the August Staff Member of the Month is Alice Frierson, Custodian in the School of Education. A certificate will be given to Alice as well as a coupon booklet.

### **New By-Laws**

A new communication policy consisting of, "Responses to requests for information or comments" and "Dissemination of Information to University staff members," was approved to be added to by-laws policy as Section VII: Staff Council Communications. It was motioned by Kim Chrestman seconded by Natcha Evans and approved by all.

A DM reported representative should be assigned to the Staff Council. This was suggested by Johnette Jenkins.

### **Committee Updates:**

Hospitality Committee met with plans to have a social for the staff members. Taylor Grocery will provide a full Ice cream bar at \$3/pp for 500 people on 8/29 (2-4) and 200 Physical Workers on 8/30(10-11) back-up plan for rain and Bryant Hall. We will have a sign-in sheet to track how much is served. Felisa will get a head count on the physical plant attendees for 8/30.

### **Standing Committees:**

No committees have met, except for international program committee.

### **Announcements/Concerns:**

1. Parking Issues – all concerns will be directed to the upcoming guest speaker.
2. New director of Parking, Mr. Isaac Astill will be our next guest speaker.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Tatum, Smoke Free Policy (Jan. 1 will take full effect). Mr. Tatum, felt that the student's population and a number of staff members were not fairly notified of the Smoke Free Campus Policy and hope that there can a middle ground on compromising the rules and regulations of the policy.

### **Meeting adjourned 11:30a.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 13 at 10:30 A.M., Physical Plant Conference Room.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jacqueline Vinson.