

## Minutes of December 4, 1996 meeting

2:30 p.m., 404 Union



• **Present:**

Julie Andrews, Onice Carter, Mary Chrestman, Becky Christman, Buster Clark, Sondra Davis, Ben Flemmons, Mary Harrington, Eldrid Hodge, Joyce Hobson, Virginia Kesler, Floyd Klepzig, Jonnie Manning, Traci Mitchell, Conny Parham, Donna Patton, David Pendergrass, Lucienne Savell, Steve Stricker, Doug Stuart

• **Excused Absences:**

Betty Adams, Leslie Banahan, Cynthia Baskett, Brenda Brannan, Thelma Curry, Martha Deal, Marjorie Douglass, David Elmore, Gene Hartley, Willie Hilliard, Joe Maples, Norman Sneed, Lesley Werner

• **Unexcused Absences:**

Robert Bishop, Debbie Chinault, Valeria Harmon, Sally Perry, Whitman Smith

1. The meeting was called to order by President Buster Clark at 2:30 p.m. President Clark began the meeting by introducing the guest speaker, State Senator Gray Tollison.
2. Senator Tollison began by giving a report on the Legislative Budget Office (LBO) meeting that was held earlier this year.
  - A. Senator Tollison explained how the state is funded. He explained that sales tax is the main funding source for the state, and that gambling provides only 4% of the total revenue generated. Senator Tollison was confident in saying that the proposed 3% salary increase for state employees as previously reported in the newspaper is the "blue print" of what is expected to take place.
  - B. Senator Tollison reported that the legislature is looking into the exemption portion of the state income tax. Currently the state income tax allows a \$6,000 exemption if you are a single person, but only allows \$9,600 for a married couple. The legislature is looking into ways to make this more equitable for married couples.
  - C. Senator Tollison further reported that there were seven bills introduced during the last session which will be introduced again. Two of these bills are the medical sick leave pooling bill and a bill dealing with having to use the first day of illness as personal leave.
  - D. Some of the legislators recently took a tour of the University and were surprised at the conditions of the Ole Miss campus buildings. The legislators were in agreement that building and renovation funds are in need, particularly at Ole Miss, since this was the first university of the state and therefore has some of the oldest buildings of any institutions.
  - E. Mary Chrestman asked Senator Tollison, *"Why did the newspaper print that the school teachers would receive a 3% across-the-board pay raise for the next three years and that the state employees would only get the 3% raise this year?"* Senator Tollison stated he did not know the answer to the question, but that he would be glad to look into the situation.
  - F. Mary Chrestman also asked Senator Tollison, *"I thought the gambling revenue was supposed to be earmarked for education. Why do we not see more of it?"* He reported that the gambling revenue only brings in about 4% of all revenue. It is incorporated into the general fund which is disbursed among all state agencies.
  - G. Mary Harrington asked Senator Tollison why private schools were not allowed to connect to the network structure that the public schools are currently being connected to. Currently, even if the private school is willing to pay the costs involved, they are not allowed to connect to the network. Senator Tollison stated he did not know, but he would be glad to look into the situation and get back with us.
  - H. Senator Tollison closed his talk by stating that he wants to do a good job representing each and every one

of us, but he can only do that if we communicate our concerns to him. He asked that people phone, write, or E-mail him with their questions or concerns. His E-mail address is [gtollison@watervalley.net](mailto:gtollison@watervalley.net).

- I. President Clark thanked Senator Tollison for coming to speak to us and presented him with a small gift of appreciation.
3. **Staff Development Certification:** Eldrid Hodge reported that the committee on Staff Development Certification has drafted a document entitled "Criteria for Approval." He passed out copies to members present. In order to be eligible for the certification salary increase, an employee would have to fill out one of these application forms and submit it to the Department of Human Resources for review. The application would then be sent to the committee who would make the recommendation as to whether the staff member was eligible to receive compensation for receiving the certificate. Eldrid stressed two points of interest: (1) the employee is limited to compensation for **two** certificates and (2) the supervisor does **not** have to agree with the application.
4. **Barnes and Noble Focus Group:** President Clark reported that the meeting of the focus group with Barnes and Nobles was very positive. The company stated that they would like to be involved with Staff Appreciation Week. They want their experience here at the University to be a positive experience for both the University and the company. Barnes and Noble stated they would like for this store to be the model store for other institutions to review. If the current employees of the Bookstore wish to remain with the University, they will be given consideration when job openings occur on campus.
5. **Faculty -- Participation in Staff Appreciation Week:** There has been interest shown to invite the faculty to participate in our annual staff appreciation week. President Clark asked for input from the staff on how they feel about this. Please address your suggestions to President Clark by calling him at 232-7747 or by E-mail. His E-mail address is [tebuster@olemiss.edu](mailto:tebuster@olemiss.edu). You may also send your suggestions to a member of the council by January 18, 1997.
6. **Staff Council Office / Storage Cleanup Day:** We are very thankful for the administration finding us a room that we can use as an office, but it needs some cleaning up. A cleanup day has been set for **December 19, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5-A Leavell Hall**. Any staff member is welcome to participate.
7. **Data on Staff Compensation Committee:** Mary Chrestman reported that the committee requested information through the Department of Human Resources for the Computer Center to provide them data reports on 4 different staff issues:
  - a. job class comparison
  - b. employees who have received degrees since coming to work at the University
  - c. employees whose current job step is below the Morris start step
  - d. job classes with few employees.This information has been received and is being reviewed by the committee. They will make reports to the Staff Council as information becomes available.
8. **January Staff Council Meeting:** Because of the holidays and registration immediately upon returning to work, it was suggested that we move the regular January Staff Council meeting to a different date. A motion was made by Steve Stricker and seconded by Sondra Davis to move the January meeting to January 15 at 2:30 p.m. in room 404 Union. The motion passed.
9. **Elections for Outstanding Staff:** In an effort to try to increase the voter participation in outstanding staff member elections, discussion was held concerning moving the election time from April to March during Spring Break. A motion was made by Doug Stuart and seconded by Ben Flemmons to move the voting to coincide with Spring Break. The motion passed.
10. **Publicity:** President Clark shared with the members a handout that has been created to be given to new staff during the staff orientation meetings.

Without further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/Lucienne Savell, Secretary

Approved by:

/s/Buster Clark, President

/s/Jonnie Manning, President-Elect

The Staff Council meetings are open for anyone who would like to attend. The meetings are held at 2:30 p.m. of the Union on the first Wednesday of the month. If you should have a concern that you would like addressed, please call Jonnie Manning at x-5021 or you may send her e-mail at [dpjism@olemiss.edu](mailto:dpjism@olemiss.edu).

**You are invited to attend the next Staff Council Meeting.**

WHEN: January 15, 1997

WHERE: UNION 404 A/B

TIME: 2:30 P.M.