

## **The University of Mississippi**

Minutes of the Meeting, February 5, 2003

## **Staff Council**

Union 404 A&B

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Valentine's day has come and gone and we have made our obligatory expressions of love, affection and thoughtfulness to all those for who we care. Would it not be wonderful if we kept that spirit EVERY day, not just an occasional day? It is hard to show an expression of gratitude each and every day, but I challenge you to try. Try to see the best in people every day and make the effort to tell that person how you appreciate them. We are blessed with many staff members who come to work every day with that kind of outlook. It is those people I ask you to focus on now. Now is the time to be considering whom you would like to see being recognized as the outstanding staff member in your EEO category. Think of the person who influences you positively every day, who goes the extra mile, who does it with a smile, willingly, without the need of a reward. If you know of such a person, submit their name to be recognized. We also have to consider the overall outstanding staff member. The person who exemplifies the ideal employee, for all EEO categories. This outstanding person can only be recognized if someone submits his or her name. Look for nomination forms coming soon from the staff council nominations committee. After you receive your nomination forms, take the time to complete and submit the person of your choice. Looking forward to a record number of nominees. Will you be one?

**PRESENT:** James Akey, Rachel Bost, Joey Brent, Joni Camp, Nina Cheshier, Matthew Deming, Judy Fos, Brenda Brannan, Regina Jordan, Earlene Foster, Mary Harrington, Shellie Harrison, Buddy Kahler, Cathy Laswell, Shannon Lovejoy, Steven Maples, Jean Pinion, Michelle Mize, Renee Moore, Tony Seaman, Doug Stuart, Jeanette Wells, Conny Parham, Hilarie Pryor, Rosa Vance

**EXCUSED:** Amelia Rodgers, Melissa Hudson, Karen Tuttle

**UNEXCUSED:** Dino Johnson, Sam Johnson, Dennis Bullard, Dave Sagaser

2:38pm. Welcome made by President Tony Seaman followed by the introduction of the guest speaker, University Police Chief, Randy Corban. Chief Corban addressed the Council regarding UPD's normal duties, such as patrolling and campus safety, and then described their involvement in the community. UPD is involved in many outreach programs. They do events for children in the Village such as Village Fun Day and annual Christmas program. UPD also offers "Adopt-A-Cop," a program that partners an officer with fraternities and sororities on campus and talks with them about issues ranging from parking to alcohol and drug abuse. UPD also participates in many fund raising events each year such as fraternity softball games, Cops on Bikes, Relay for Life (April 11 & 12, 2003) and the Jean Jones Walk/Run for Cancer (April 12, 2003). The University Police Department is proud to be active participants with the United Way and Special Olympics as well. UPD is a member of the Lafayette County Law Enforcement Association and is involved with the Lafayette County 911 System. They have helped provide 911 poles for elderly individuals in the county. UPD also offers programs for local public schools where they will bring a K9 dog into the classroom and speak to the children about the dangers of drugs.

After addressing the Council, Chief Corban opened the floor for questions. Brenda Brannan asked about a possible change in the speed limit on Old Taylor Road. Chief Corban said a recommendation has been made to raise the speed limit from 18 to 30 mph. Buddy Kahler wanted to know if UPD still conducted campus safety surveys. Chief Corban replied that they haven't done one in several years, but that they would probably do one soon. On a related note, Mary Harrington wanted to know how the UM campus crime rate compared to other colleges. Chief Corban said that the University's crime rate was low and comparable to other schools in the Southeastern Conference. Chief Corban also mentioned that the campus' highest crime statistics involved petty theft and auto burglaries. Doug Stuart asked about the Rebel Patrol and Code Blue. Chief Corban stated that Rebel Patrol is still active. People on campus can call UPD at night and request an escort to their automobile or campus building. Code Blue is also still active on campus. The campus has 15 Code Blue poles. Each pole has push buttons and blue lights which can be activated by anyone in the

event of an emergency and police officers respond in minutes. Many thanks to Chief Corban for being the Council's guest speaker. Following Chief Corban was the Council's approval of the January 2003 minutes. The approval of the minutes was unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved with no corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The continued concern of e-mail access for campus employees who do not have access to computers was addressed. Since the January Council meeting, Mary Harrington and Tony Seaman have spoken with Clay Jones, the Director of Human Resources, about capturing the names of individuals who do not have e-mail access. Mr. Jones says that HR does have a way of monitoring who does and does not have access to e-mail. They will work with Staff Council to ensure that everyone will have access to the Council minutes and other materials either via e-mail or by campus mail.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Tony Seaman stated that clarifications and changes to the Staff Textbook Scholarship program will take effect as discussed in the January Council meeting. The Bookstore is also going to help enforce the policies related to the scholarship to only allow purchases of textbooks and acceptable supplies. Acceptable supplies does not include notebooks, pen, paper, etc. The staff members who have purchased school supplies with the textbook voucher will be required to reimburse the scholarship fund.
- University Creed Focus Groups - A request was made of the Staff Council to evaluate and possibly endorse the new University Creed. A request for volunteers was made to serve on one of two committees to review the Creed.
- The Staff Council Executive Committee received information from Vicki Mahan, EAP Coordinator/counselor for the University Counseling Center. Tony Seaman gave an overview to the Council about the information sent to the Executive Committee. Tony spoke of what a great resource the Counseling Center offers to University employees by providing counseling services to faculty and staff. The EAP (Employee Assistance Program) will be discussed more at the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- President Tony Seaman has been asked to serve on a committee for the Frist-Award. This is an award given to both a faculty and staff member for outstanding service to students. Mr. Seaman will be asking for a volunteer to take his place on this committee.
- The issue of Donated Leave has come up again. A proposal has been made to the Legislature by Senator Bill Thames which would allow persons who had utilized all their personal/medical leave to have leave time donated by other individuals on campus who have acquired an excess of personal time. This practice was allowed several years ago and was discontinued.
- A discussion was held about the many upcoming events involving Staff Council. Mary Harrington stated that ballots had been mailed to members of EEO Categories 1, 3 and 7 for Staff Council member nominations for those categories. Nominations for president-elect and treasurer will take place at the March Council meeting. A call for volunteers was made to assist with Outstanding Staff Member elections.
- Jeanette Wells asked if a date had been set for the Staff Council Blood Drive and Tony Seaman said that he would be getting back to her about a possible date. Judy Fos wanted to know if the Council would be soliciting local vendors for prizes for Staff Appreciation Day. Tony responded that the Council will not be soliciting vendors. Further discussion about Staff Appreciation Day will be in the near future.

**CONCERN:**

- At the January Council meeting, there was a concern that since Jonnie Manning is retiring this year, the Council would be losing its webmaster. Joey Brent showed an interest in assisting or becoming the new Staff Council webmaster. Joey has contacted Jonnie regarding assisting her with these duties, and it has been agreed that both of them will be S/C webmasters. Jonnie will continue from home after she retires. Staff Council appreciates Jonnie and Joey for their hard work.
- An issue was brought to the Council regarding half-priced basketball tickets for retired employees of the University. The concern was that half-priced tickets are only made available to persons who have retired from

upper EEO categories. President Tony Seaman will be doing further research on this issue.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No committee reports.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Reminder: Next Staff Council meeting will be March 5, 2003.

Meeting adjourned. 3:48 pm.

/s/Tony Seaman, President

/s/Joni Camp, President-Elect

/s/Steven L. Maples, Secretary

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