

Minutes of July 2, 1997 meeting

2:30 p.m., Union Room 404A/B



PRESENT:

Julie Andrews, Cynthia Baskett, Brenda Brannan, Onice Carter, Mary Chrestman, Buster Clark, Sondra Davis, David Elmore, Ben Flemmons, Mary Harrington, Gene Hartley, Willie Hilliard, Eldrid Hodge, Ellawee Ivy, Virginia Kesler, Jonnie Manning, Joe Maples, Donna Patton, David Pendergrass, Doug Stuart

GUESTS: Laura Pannell, Cliff Woodruff

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Robert Bishop, Debbie Chinault, Thelma Curry, Martha Deal, Floyd Klepzig, Traci Mitchell, Steve Stricker, Lucienne Savell, Lesley Werner

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Betty Adams, Leslie Banahan, Joyce Hobson, Conny Parham, Norman Sneed, Whitman Smith

Jonnie Manning, President, opened the meeting by introducing Laura Pannell, Director of Marketing. Laura thanked the Staff Council for the opportunity to address the following initiatives:

Good Things are Happening at Ole Miss. Formerly the *Monday Report*, this publication has been enhanced to allow more opportunities to let faculty and staff know about events and to "spotlight" faculty and staff accomplishments. Laura asked that staff members notify Karen Smith (7238) of any staff who they feel should be included in these spotlights. Laura asked for feedback from staff on whether or not the new format is an improvement and any other ideas and suggestions regarding the publication. Gene Hartley stated that he would like to see this publication used for appropriate announcements regarding the donated leave pool and other human resources issues. Laura agreed that this was the appropriate means to disseminate information of this type.

Barnes and Noble Feature Section. The Bookstore will have a feature section on UM authors. Staff are encouraged to let the Marketing Office know of anyone on campus who is a published author. A reception honoring these authors is also planned. The Bookstore's grand opening will be held on September 5, the day before the SMU football game. A proposal has been made to Barnes and Noble for an intersession event in mid-May specifically for faculty and staff.

Fall Visit Day for High School and Community College Students/State-wide "Kickoff for Kids." Both activities have been set for September 6 (SMU game). The University will provide free football tickets to students age 14 and under with an adult sponsor for the "Kickoff for Kids" program. Any church, civic, etc. groups are eligible (a minimum of two students constitutes a group) for the tickets. The Fall Visit Day tickets are \$5.00 each. The contact person for tickets is Marvin Julich at 7238.

Faculty/Staff Coach of the Game will be expanded this year to include basketball and baseball. Laura stated that football was not included in this project because of the difficulty of having someone on the field and the general logistics. Buster Clark suggested that a staff person be given a pass to the Press Box or Broadcast Booth during football games.

Basketball Games Programs. A proposal has been made to the sponsors to include a faculty/staff spotlight page in each basketball game program. No firm agreement has been made at this time. Laura welcomes any comments and suggestions regarding this proposal.

Channel 12 and U92 Faculty/Staff Spotlights. A proposal has been made to include a program spotlight on interesting or noteworthy activities of faculty and staff which would make interesting feature stories.

Chancellor's Visits. A recommendation has been made that the Chancellor schedule visits to buildings/departments as he did last year.

Mary Harrington asked for Laura's suggestions regarding marketing with regard to Staff Council and its activities--i.e., how to generate interest in serving on Staff Council and how to encourage staff to vote in the Outstanding Staff elections.

Jonnie Manning presented Buster Clark with a gift as a token of the Council's appreciation for his dedication and hard work during his successful term as president. Buster noted that several goals had been accomplished this year and that he was leaving the presidency in good hands.

Mr. Cliff Woodruff, Associate Provost for Information Technology was introduced as a guest. He has agreed to address the Council at a later date.

The following items of business were discussed:

Staff Awards. Buster submitted a recommendation to Chancellor Khayat that the total amount of the Staff Awards be increased to equal that of the Outstanding Faculty Award. The Chancellor responded that he would look into getting the amount raised. The Council will follow up with Dr. Khayat.

Reclassification Proposal. The proposal the Staff Council submitted regarding reclassification has been approved by the Personnel Committee and the Chancellor. The proposal reads, *"Requests for reclassification should be addressed regardless of the availability of funding. If the department has funds for the upgrade, it should be funded departmentally. If no funds are available, the reclassified person should be included in the current pool of people who get annual salary adjustments (VCP adjustments) in an attempt to get them closer to their target salary."*

Ushers. Ushers are needed for Commencement on August 2 and will also be needed for the **Firing Line** telecast on October 14. Staff members should contact Jonnie Manning if they are willing to serve.

Committee Reports:

Mary Chrestman stated that the **Compensation Committee** will meet this week and will report at next month's meeting.

Appointments to the **Personnel Action Review Board** (per request of Chancellor Khayat) are: Mary Harrington, Traci Mitchell, Buster Clark, Bonnie Brown, and Kathy Tidwell.

Mary Harrington reported that the **Recruitment/Retention Committee** has submitted their final report to Chancellor Khayat.

Announcements:

A thank you note was received from David Wells, Athletic Office, thanking the Staff Council for a very successful Staff Appreciation Week.

The MASCO (Mississippi Association of Staff Council Officers) meeting will be held at Jackson State University on Thursday, July 10. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jonnie Manning or Onice Carter.

A memo was received from a concerned staff member regarding a possible middle income tuition tax credit. There is a possibility of the IRS allowing a tax credit for tuition costs. The question was raised as to whether employees would be allowed to use this credit and also benefit from the tuition waivers for children of faculty/staff. The Council will issue updates on this issue as more information is received.

The cost of parking decals will increase this year. The Staff Council was asked to propose a sliding scale so that staff

making below a set amount would not have to pay the full amount. The Executive Committee responded that if the University could absorb the loss of the full amount of increase from a significant percentage of staff, the amount of increase should be lowered for the entire staff by that amount. The Executive Committee also foresaw a problem for UPD in trying to determine the cost of the decal. How would they know what to charge an employee when they came to register a car unless they knew what the employee's salary was? Dr. Andy Mullins will take this proposal to the Chancellor's Cabinet for review. Dr. Mullins also stated that a rumor that the cost of parking decals would differentiate according to the location of the building were not true and asked that the Staff Council help dispel the rumor.

Becky Christman has resigned from the Council due to her work load. A replacement will be located before the next meeting. We want to express our appreciation to Becky for her hard work while she was on the Council.

Onice Carter announced that surveys are being mailed to staff members asking for feedback on Staff Appreciation Week and suggestions for next year. Staff are encouraged to complete the survey and return them to Buster Clark.

Jonnie will check on the status of the inter-university tuition exchange proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by,
/s/Donna Patton, Secretary
/s/Jonnie Manning, President
/s/Onice Carter, President-Elect

**The TV program, Firing Line, is again coming to Ole Miss.
When: October 14, 1997
Where: Tad Smith Coliseum**

**Ushers are needed for this event.
Contact Jonnie Manning at ext. 5021 (or email her at dpjasm@olemiss.edu) to volunteer.**