

The University of Mississippi

Minutes of the Meeting: June 1, 2005

Staff Council

Union 404

Present: James Akey; Dotty Baker; Shannon Beeman; Debbie Binkley; Robert Bishop; David Blackmarr; Rachel Bost; Brenda Brannan; Joey Brent; Nina Cheshier; Kim Chrestman; Cathy Grace; Carra Hewitt; Jeff Howell; Ann Mason; Patti Mooney; Susan Neal; Jennifer Pardoe; Paula Park; Randall Pinion; Amy Saxton; Karen Tuttle

Excused: Mary Harrington; Ron Kitchens; Eddie Lovin; Ardessa Minor; Traci Mitchell; Jerry Moore; Deidra Phillips; Bettie Puckett; Tony Seaman

Unexcused: Pam Barefield; Debbie Bishop; Corrie Free; Ben Pharr; Timothy Woodard

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm by President-Elect Joey Brent.

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel Bost reported that there were no expenses related to travel or equipment last month. The majority of expenses were incurred for Staff Appreciation Week. Although some funds were spent in the textbook scholarship account, most of the charges for summer school textbooks have not been posted. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

Staff Appreciation Week Report:

- Debbie Binkley, committee chair, reported that the majority of comments about Staff Appreciation Week have been very positive. All door prize winners have been contacted, but six staff members have not yet picked up their prizes.
- Joey Brent reported that Ardessa Minor has suggested the Staff Council honor Chancellor Khayat for his support of the Staff Council and Staff Appreciation Week. The Council discussed several ways to recognize the Chancellor for his support, and to also commemorate his tenth anniversary as Chancellor.
- Some of the entertainments provided during Staff Appreciation Week were well attended, while some had low attendance:
 - Thirty people attended convocation.
 - Karaoke participation was lower than usual.
 - Twenty-five staff members attended the landscaping presentation.
 - Attendance at the plant swap and the Campus Recreation demonstrations were low.
 - Approximately 100 people participated in bingo. Amy Saxton reported that many door prizes were distributed, and that the Johnson Commons ballroom was a great venue for the event.
 - Susan Neal stated that she has received wonderful comments about the picnic, and that the event ran smoothly. She estimates that 800-1000 people were served. Ms. Neal added that next year it should be stressed to staff that spouses and children may not participate in the picnic, and that "to go" boxes should be provided for those staff who cannot leave their offices.
 - Rachel Bost and Dottie Baker reported that there were no glitches at the awards ceremony, and that they have received no negative comments. Ms. Bost reported that attendance seemed better this year than in the past. Awards have been forwarded to recipients who could not attend the program. Prior to the program, some off-campus sites received their invitations late. Ms. Bost suggested that next year these employees be contacted by phone to remind them of the program.
 - Kim Chrestman, chair of the blood drive, stated that 31 units of blood were collected, which is approximately seven more units donated than in years past. Several door prizes were given away, including the grand prize of a one night stay with two complimentary buffets at Hollywood Casino.
- Brenda Brannan reported that the Elections Committee had to deal with several problems during the elections process, but that the elections turned out well. Joey Brent thanked everyone who worked on the elections committee to help facilitate the process. President-Elect Brent also suggested developing an elections subcommittee to work on developing an electronic voting process for next year.

- Comments and suggestions for planning next year's event were as follows:
 - Joey Brent suggested conducting an online survey of this year's event in order to gather feedback from staff to be used in planning for next year. Joey Brent, Debbie Binkley, and Jennifer Pardoe will meet to develop the survey.
 - More advertising is needed, particularly on the Staff Council website. Posters and additional brochures could also be distributed around campus.
 - Program planning should begin earlier next year. Additional advertising for a longer period would possibly improve participation.
 - Two Staff Council members reported that they were not allowed to attend the events, so other staff members may not be allowed to attend, either. The Council should work on obtaining more support from deans and department heads to allow staff participation.
 - Council members who served on planning committees should forward copies of all notes on Staff Appreciation Week to Debbie Binkley. Ms. Binkley will compile these notes into one binder for next year's volunteers.

Exam Breakfast: Paula Park thanked Ron Kitchens, Timothy Woodard, and the catering staff for their assistance at the exam breakfast. Comments from students have been very positive (even though no door prizes were available at the event), and 120 more students participated this semester than in December. Amy Saxton volunteered to assist Ms. Park with planning the fall program.

Committee Reports:

- Jennifer Pardoe, chair of the Publicity Committee, reported that pictures taken during Staff Appreciation Week will be posted on the Staff Council website. Mary Harrington also has a link on the website to her awards ceremony speech. Joey Brent will check with Robert Jordan about placing additional photos on the website.
- New Employee Orientation, which was held during Staff Appreciation Week, was very successful. The committee plans to continue this program.

Old Business:

- The suggestion box has been moved to the Central Ticket Office, but will be moved to a better location after renovations to the Union are complete.

Announcements:

- The Staff Council expressed its appreciation to Mary Harrington for her great work and dedication as Staff Council president.
- Shannon Beeman is relocating to Nashville, and will be resigning from the Council. Joey Brent thanked Ms. Beeman for her work as Staff Council secretary.
- The next Staff Council meeting will be held on July 6, 2005 in Union 404.

Meeting adjourned, 3:35 pm.

/s/ Mary Harrington, President
/s/ Joey Brent, President-Elect
/s/ Shannon Beeman, Secretary

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