

# Minutes of March 14, 2001 meeting

2:30 p.m., Anderson Auditorium



## PRESENT:

Jean Baker, Bettie Bey, Betty Brown, Joni Camp, Mary Chrestman, Shirley Fisher, Earlene Foster, Shellie Harrison, Melissa Hudson, Dino Johnson, Sam Johnson, Regina Jordan, Buddy Kahler, Denise Knighton, Deborah Lemmons, Shannon Lovejoy, Jonnie Manning, Traci Mitchell, Heu Oldham, Conny Parham, Dave Sagaser, Tony Seaman, Mark Shows, Karen Tuttle, Rosa Vance, Sherry Wall, Jeanette Wells, Amanda Wood

## EXCUSED:

Dennis Bullard, Nina Cheshier, Buster Clark, Anne Klingen, Janea McDonald, Lynn Mills

President Sherry Wall called the meeting to order. She welcomed the new members, and expressed appreciation for the years of service from the members whose term recently ended.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously.

## Announcements:

- MASCO (Mississippi Association of Staff Council Organizations) will meet here at Ole Miss tomorrow (March 15th) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Rebel Club.
- Employee Appreciation Day has been set for Friday, May 18th. A University standing committee is now in charge of planning this day. Clay Jones is the chair of this committee.
  1. Lunch will be catered, and no staff will need to work to serve the food. Johnny Williams has agreed to find the funds to pay for the lunch.
  2. Bill Kingery and his staff have agreed to organize activities for the afternoon.
  3. The Staff Council will still be in charge of planning the Awards Day Ceremony, which includes the presentation of the Outstanding Staff Member awards.
  4. We will still have a Blood Drive in the Student Union. Jeanette Wells and Karen Tuttle agreed to organize this event. The dates for the Blood Drive are May 16th (from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and May 17th (from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Volunteers are needed in one-hour shifts. Please contact Jeanette or Karen to volunteer.
  5. Karen Tuttle asked that since there would be no golf tournament this year, would it be possible for employees to have a day set aside where they could go play golf without paying green fees. The answer is no.
  6. Jeanette Wells asked why there would be no door prizes this year. The main reason is that trying to get donations and then gather the donations is a tremendous job, and it is not one that the University Standing Committee is willing to assume.
- A discussion was held as to whether it would be feasible to cut down on the number of minutes that are mailed out. Printing Services makes the copies and currently mails out minutes to all staff members. Jonnie Manning mentioned that it would be possible for Information Technology to change programs so that Printing Services could mail out minutes ONLY to those staff members who do not have an email address on file in the employee database. Mary Chrestman made a motion to request these changes be made and to print minutes for mail-out to ONLY those staff members who do not have an email address on file in the employee database. Conny Parham seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no opposition. Employees who have an email address on file

in the employee database will now need to access the Staff Council minutes on the web [http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/staff\\_council/](http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/staff_council/).

- A suggestion has been made that Ole Miss look into instituting a Rewards for Incentive for Cost-Reduction ideas. If an employee suggests an idea to save the University money, and it is implemented, then "bonus" money would be paid to the employee from the money saved or from the organization that benefitted from the suggestion. The program would have to be managed at the top level. The suggestion would have to result in actual savings realized. The Council asked the Executive Committee to present this idea to Dr. Khayat for his consideration.
- A request to help the Pontotoc tornado victims was received. Beth Selby has asked that the Staff Council ask all staff members to donate \$1.00 to a special fund. If everyone donated just \$1.00, then \$1600 could be raised to help the tornado victims. Donations may be sent to Social Work Department, Social Work Student Organization, Hume Hall.
- Nomination forms for the Thomas F. Frist Faculty/Staff Student Service Award. Nominations must be returned to the Chancellor's Office by April 3rd.
- A C.A.R.E. (Caring for Aging Relatives Effectively) seminar will be held on Wednesday, April 18th. Joann O'Quin is asking for volunteers to serve whatever time you have available.
- Election for next year's Staff Council officers will be held in May. The deadline for nominations is April 15th. Buddy Kahler will assume the duties of President. Nominations are needed for the offices of President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. Officers will take office in July. Traci Mitchell volunteered to head the committee to handle the elections. If you wish to nominate someone or to volunteer, contact Traci Mitchell at extension 5503 or email her at [tmitchel@olemiss.edu](mailto:tmitchel@olemiss.edu).
- Mary Chrestman gave the Treasurer's report.

## Committee Reports:

- Buddy Kahler reported for the Concerns Committee:
  1. Buddy read a card from Sue Hodge thanking Council members for the flowers sent to Eldrid's funeral. The remainder of the money collected was donated to the Chapel fund in Eldrid's memory.
  2. The main concern was the fact that several of the state's Universities closed for spring break, while Ole Miss remained open. Dr. Khayat stated in the Executive Committee meeting that legally it is against the law for University Presidents to close their schools except in cases of natural disasters or emergency situations. Quoting from a memo from the University Attorney Mary Ann Connell, "*The Board of Trustees has authorized six official holidays for the eight public institutions under its management.... The Board further provides that the Institutional Executive Officers may designate additional days as official holidays, not to exceed a total of fifteen (15) days a year.*"
  3. A rumor that hourly paid employees were going to be reduced to 30 hours a week this summer is just that a rumor. Dr. Khayat stated this **IS NOT TRUE**.
- Outstanding Staff Member -- nomination forms have been mailed out. Volunteers are needed to help "stuff" the ballot information into envelopes for mail-out on Tuesday, April 3rd, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in Powers 1st floor conference room. Voting for Outstanding Staff Members will be the same as in previous years. We will use the RSVP phone system (ext. 7748). An alternate ballot will be provided for those who do not wish to vote by phone. The Alumni Association has donated a \$50 prize that will be won by some lucky voter. The names of everyone who votes will be placed in a container for the drawing. The Alumni Association has also provided

another \$50 prize which will be awarded to someone who attends the Awards Day ceremony on May 18th.

**The Staff Council wishes to express our appreciation to the University of Mississippi Alumni Association for their support in providing these two \$50 prizes to be used on behalf of the forthcoming Staff Appreciation Day.**

**We also wish to express our appreciation to the University of Mississippi Foundation for their continued support in again providing the funding for all the Outstanding Staff Member awards to be given on Staff Appreciation Day.**

- Search for Vice Chancellor for Research Committee -- Conny Parham reported that the committee has settled on five candidates. Interviewing will begin within the next couple of weeks.
- Sherry Wall stated that she needed a volunteer to serve on the Professional Development Committee. Melissa Hudson volunteered.

The meeting was adjourned.

/s/Sherry Wall, President

/s/Buddy Kahler, President-Elect

/s/Jonnie Manning, Secretary

Staff Council e-mail address: [staffcouncil@olemiss.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@olemiss.edu)

Staff Council Homepage: [http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/staff\\_council/](http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/staff_council/)

If you are interested in joining the Staff Listserv, please visit the Staff Council Homepage or talk to a Staff Council Representative or send an e-mail message to [Majordomo@listserv.olemiss.edu](mailto:Majordomo@listserv.olemiss.edu) with the words "*subscribe staff*" in the body of the e-mail message.