

The University of Mississippi

Minutes of Meeting March 9, 2010

Staff Council

200 Lyceum

Present: Dotty Baker, Prema Balachandran, Jeff Boyd, Karinlee Brister, Carol Bullard, Dawn Bullion, Mark Camarigg, Jessica Coker, Tiffany Edwards, Stan Fortner, Mark Garneau, Alicia Goodson, Shelia Goolsby, Melinda Grimmitt, Doug Gurley, Angie Gurner, Marla Holcomb, Johnette Taylor Jenkins, MaryAnn Kerr, Natcha Knight-Evans, Jane Michelletti, Julius Minor, Stephanie Mitchell, Valerie Moncrief, Patricia Oswalt, Paula Park, Johnny Price, Anita Randle, Neal Sellers, John Supple, Precious Pratt Thompson, Ryan Upshaw, Dorothy Vaughn, Benita Whitehorn

Absent-Excused: Debbie Bishop, Lisa Bishop, Sandra Cox-McCarty, Shellie Harrison, Erin Miller, Sovent Taylor, Jacqueline Vinson

Absent-Unexcused: Elaine Little

Call to order: Johnette called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Dan Jones, Chancellor. First, he spoke briefly on the budget issues that the state of Mississippi and The University of Mississippi are facing. State revenue makes up one fourth of the UM budget. The budget begins being built for the next fiscal year as soon as it's known what the state appropriation will be. The Chancellor has asked University leaders to move forward quickly with this for two reasons: 1) last year talks didn't begin until late June; and 2) staff and faculty are anxious about the future and our financial needs. Enrollment projections seem "healthy" for the fall semester. He was asked about reduction in force and his response was that there will be a few layoffs in light of the budget issues. He feels that the only jobs that will be lost will be those that are open or by attrition. The University will only take on additional faculty and staff as absolutely necessary and in the next two years we will have a better outlook. Present staff will take on heavier workloads to alleviate the need for new staff to get through this crisis. The Chancellor was asked about student retention. In regards to retention, the Provost Office has programs in place to assist in maintaining retention rates. He was asked about his personal goals as Chancellor. He believes that The University of Mississippi has the opportunity to transform the lives of our students. We have a responsibility for the transformation of individual lives and we must be purposeful of how we transform not only our students but our community. The theme for the Chancellor's Inauguration will be service. We must be active in serving our campus and community. The Chancellor was asked about retirement incentives in light of the budget crisis. He responded by saying that the university administration has discussed retirement incentives that some campuses offer to those that are eligible for retirement. At this time the Chancellor does not feel that the university will offer this due to the program not being financially worthy. The Chancellor was asked about cancelling inauguration events in light of the budget crisis. The Chancellor responded that he did indeed consider this idea, but administration felt that it was necessary to do this even for the sake of the university but be cautious of spending. The Chancellor said that if given a choice, he would not have had the events but wants to use service as the theme for the event. He asked that everyone think of ways they can serve the university, community, and nation. The Chancellor was asked about satellite campuses and their role in the campus community. He responded that they are very important.

They play an important role in enrollment and they provide non-traditional students an opportunity to be involved in the university. The Chancellor was then asked about admission standards. He wants to see an improvement in the quality of students admitted. Some students come from rural communities that can't provide the same preparation for college that other communities can. For now, the university is just trying to recruit as many students as possible. This summer the Chancellor will approach this issue with a committee for further ideas and direction. Finally, the Chancellor was asked what he would like from Staff Council. He asked that we convey a positive spirit in light of concerns and share good factual information.

Introduction of New Representatives: Johnette introduced our new representatives. They are: Doug Gurley, Sovent Taylor, Melinda Grimmatt, Julius Minor (re-elected), Shelia Goolsby (re-elected), Precious Pratt-Thompson, Jeff Boyd, Dorothy Vaughn, John Supple, and Ashley Harrell.

Minutes: February minutes approved by consensus

Treasurer's Report: February treasurer's report approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Website – Stephanie will have the link available on Friday for perusal. She has created a survey for questions and comments.
- b) Judicial Council – Johnette met with Scott Wallace and Melinda Carlson and they would prefer a 3 year appointment for a Staff Council member. When considering this member for the Judicial Council, diversity will play a factor in the nomination.
- c) Bylaws – have now been updated and sent out. The bylaws were approved by consensus and Johnette will resend with the new approval date.
- d) COMPASS – The Inaugural Service Committee will have a “whisper campaign” after Spring Break. Signs with words like “you’ve got it” etc. will be distributed around campus in an effort to build excitement. There will be a large service fair held in the Union Plaza during the week of Inauguration. There were 84 events submitted for highlighting that week. Most of these will be at the fair. The Staff Council will need to meet before then and decide what we want our table to look like. Ryan Upshaw, Stephanie Mitchell, Sandra Cox-McCarty, and Anita Randle will head up this event.
- e) Staff Appreciation Week – The Chancellor has given permission for events to now cover a week instead of three days. There will be one or more events for each workday.

New Business:

- a) Committee Reports –
 - Staff Appreciation – Patricia Oswald reports that this event is on track. The next meeting is March 25th at 10 a.m. in Ventress Hall.
 - Staff Council Elections – Dotty and Tiffany will start the week after Spring Break on elections for outstanding staff members. They thanked all volunteers who came to help count ballots for Staff Council elections.
 - Johnette asked that the Recycling Committee meet to discuss events for Earth Day, which is on April 23rd. It was reported that the university is hosting a Green Week. Possibly Staff Council could be involved in this effort.
- b) No Standing Committee Reports

- c) Outstanding Staff Member for February is Earlene Foster, senior custodian in Custodial Services. Earlene was nominated for her hard work in maintaining her areas in the Union and for being there early and staying late when necessary. She will be given a certificate and coupon for the Commons for this honor. She was nominated by Johnette Taylor Jenkins.
- d) Fundraiser Committee – Staff Council will be hosting a raffle for our scholarship account. We will be selling raffle tickets for a \$50 Kokomo’s Chevron gas card and a \$50 Kroger gift card. The goal will be to sell at least 20 tickets each at a \$1/ticket. There will be two winners. More information on this raffle will come later.
- e) Service Directory – went online March 8th. Anyone can enter their service project and how much time was spent and for what group, etc. Johnette will get more information and share. Stephanie will put the link on our website to log hours.
- f) Employee Profiles – Johnette encouraged all Staff Council to update their employee profiles. Go to www.myolemiss.edu and create the profile.

Announcements/Concerns

- a) Hard workers for February – Johnette thanked Julius and Benita for their diligence and hard work on the Council Connection newsletter. She thanked Jane and Mark Garneau for their hard work on the Bylaws update.
- b) Staff Council Representative of the Month is Jane Michelletti. The council thanks Jane for all her hard work on Staff Council.
- c) Debbie Bishop – she is feeling much better and will be coming back to work next week working half days until her strength returns.
- d) Al Neely – having financial difficulties burying his grandson – needs \$750 for costs, he is the only income in his household. Johnette asked Staff Council to donate as we have in the past to others in need.
- e) Physical Plant Blood Drive – Tuesday, March 16th, 11 a.m. till 5:30 p.m. They will be giving away t-shirts to all donors.
- f) Prescription Savings Card – A card was handed out to all members. The card can be reproduced and given to others. It is a discount card that can be used at most pharmacies to help with rising medication costs not covered by insurance.
- g) Recruitment and Retention Numbers – 93.5% retention from fall 2009 to spring 2010. 25% ahead for admission applications for the Fall semester 2010. Karinlee Brister mentioned Admission’s letter writing campaign for new incoming students and asked that Staff Council members write letters to students encouraging them to come to Ole Miss.
- h) Recognition of Staff Council Representatives – In recognition of those that have served and will be rolling off the roster. These members are: Julius Minor (re-elected), Shelia Goolsby(re-elected), Marla Holcomb (will remain until June due to being an officer), Alicia Goodson (re-appointed), Valerie Moncrief (re-appointed), Gwen Hutchins, Jane Michelletti, Karinlee Brister, Patti Mooney, and Jessica Coker.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 7th at 2:30 p.m., Physical Plant Conference Room, Guest Speaker will be Ms. Stacey Reycraft, Director of Student Disability Services.