

Minutes of March 5, 1997 meeting

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



• **Present:**

Leslie Banahan, Cynthia Baskett, Brenda Brannan, Onice Carter, Mary Chrestman, Becky Christman, Buster Clark, Thelma Curry, Sondra Davis, Mary Harrington, Gene Hartley, Willie Hilliard, Joyce Hobson, Ellawee Ivy, Floyd Klepzig, Jonnie Manning, Traci Mitchell, Donna Patton, Lucienne Savell, Steve Stricker, Lesley Werner

• **Excused Absences:**

Julie Andrews, Ben Flemmons, Joe Maples, David Pendergrass

• **Unexcused Absences:**

Betty Adams, Robert Bishop, Martha Deal, David Elmore, Virginia Kesler, Whitman Smith, Norman Sneed, Doug Stuart

• **Guests:**

Dr. Richard Mullendore, Vice Chancellor for Student Life

1. The meeting was called to order by President Buster Clark at 2:30 p.m. President Clark began by introducing our guest speaker, Dr. Richard Mullendore, Vice Chancellor for Student Life.
2. Dr. Mullendore's speech centered around "Change."
 - A. Higher education institutions must be accountable for their graduation rate and skill levels.
 - B. Phi Beta Kappa is a wonderful reality point for all of us at Ole Miss. Student leadership is one of the most important things for us and therefore, the Division of Student Life is very important to the University.
 - C. The Division of Student Life includes: Financial Aid, Housing, Orientation, Dean of Students, Greek Life, University Police and Campus Safety, Health and Wellness Center, Counseling, Campus Recreational Services, International Programs, Student Media and the Office of Student Life.
 - D. Staff Development is necessary for all staff, managerial and clerical.
 - E. Dr. Mullendore expressed a strong concern to all staff that everyone here at the university should work to attract new students and retain the present ones. Statistics reveal that 23% of freshmen do not return. 17% walk out during the first six weeks. Statistics from 1995 reveal that 71% of the freshman class returned. 23% never came back. Returning students is the measuring stick for how well we are doing. Retention is everyone's responsibility. Examples of what departments can do: Residence halls can provide a sense of community. Faculty can provide quality in academic advising. Staff can help students by giving them good advice and being courteous and helpful when in contact with the student.
 - F. Questions were asked at the end of the presentation.
 - Q:** If we notice a student going in the wrong direction academically, how can we help?
 - A:** *It depends on the situation. It could be that they need to go to the counseling center.*
 - Q:** Are other "flagship" universities going through public opinion polls like the University is facing?
 - A:** *Other universities have gone through changes like we are going through now. Two firms have contacted the University saying that they would like to conduct the survey. But at this moment, no one has been hired.*
 - Q:** Is there a mentoring program for non-Greeks like they have in the Greek system?
 - A:** *The orientation program is being restructured. This will give some mentoring relationships.*
3. Staff Appreciation Week (**May 12-16**) Committee reports:
 - A. Door Prizes -- Traci Mitchell reported that letters to businesses have been mailed. During the first part of Spring Break, the committee will begin making follow-up calls to businesses. The bookstore has offered

several items such as a television set, CD player, camera, gift certificate. This committee may need help from other staff council members to collect items from businesses.

- B. Outstanding Staff Elections -- Conny Parham reported that the ballots were mailed yesterday, March 4. Staff should be receiving their letter in the mail by Friday. Staff have the option of voting by phone or they can mail their ballot with their access code and employee id number to Conny who will place the vote for them. A drawing from the employees who voted will be held at the awards ceremony for a \$50 cash prize.
 - C. Awards Day -- Donna Patton reported that Beckett Howorth will be the emcee for this year's Awards presentation. It will be held on May 13 at 9:00 in the Grove (or Fulton Chapel in case of rain).
 - D. Food Committee -- Jonnie Manning reported that since the food committee was just re-formed, they have not had time to meet. There should be a report at the next meeting.
 - E. Events -- Onice Carter reported that all tournaments will soon be scheduled. If enough interest is shown, a Bowling tournament will be added (let Onice know if you're interested). The bookstore has planned a whole day (Wednesday, May 14th) dedicated to Staff Appreciation Week. During that day, faculty and staff will receive a 20% discount. Presently they offer a 10% discount to faculty and staff. The Bookstore is also planning additional perks for the staff during that day--more information to follow. Kathy Goff will commit one day to the cause and will have something different every hour. Jack Stribling will conduct a Water and Boat Safety seminar. As soon as the events are finalized, they will be put on the Staff Council's home web page.
 - F. Blood Drive -- Lucienne Savell reported that the drive will be conducted in the "new" ballroom in the Union Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday May 14. The blood drive will be 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Please mark your calendar for this worthwhile event.
4. President Clark reported that the leave pool bill is still active in the legislature. Also active is the bill to be allowed to take the first day of sickness as a sick day.
 5. What is the word on raises for this year? Gene Hartley responded that he has not heard a word. The Legislature will make the appropriations near the end of the Legislative Session in April.
 6. President Clark made the following announcements:
 - A. The Staff Council would like to thank the Property Office for their donation of some shelving for the Staff Council Office.
 - B. On October 9, 1997, the University will be hosting the TV program, *Firing Line*, on campus. The Staff Council has been requested to assist in supplying ushers.
 - C. The Frist Student Service Award nominations are open.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Lucienne B. Savell, Secretary

/s/Buster Clark, President

/s/Jonnie Manning, President-Elect

The TV program, *Firing Line*, is again coming to Ole Miss.

When: October 9, 1997

Where: Tad Smith Coliseum

Ushers are needed for this event.

Contact Buster Clark at ext. 7747 (or email him at tebuster@olemiss.edu) to volunteer.