

**Present:** Premalatha Balachandran, Kristina Bogan, Jeffrey Boyd, Karinlee Brister, Dawn Bullion, Mark Camarigg, Sandra Cox-McCarty, Missy Downey, Becky Drewery, Tiffany Edwards, Mark Garneau, Alicia Goodson, Paul Goolsby, Shelia Goolsby, Ashley Harrell, Johnette Jenkins, Natcha Knight-Evans, Elaine Little, Valerie Moncrief, Edward Movitz, Patricia Oswalt, Paula Park, Ginger Patterson, Lori Patton, Johnny Price, Anita Randle, Neal Sellers, Precious Thompson, Ryan Upshaw, Jacqueline Vinson, Amanda Walker, Nikki Weaver, Deetra Wiley.

**Absent-Excused:** Debbie Bishop, Melinda Grimmett, Doug Gurley, Dorothy Vaughn.

**Absent-Unexcused:** Joey Brent, Carol Bullard, Kim Chrestman, Sandy Fondren, Stan Fortner, Angie Gurner, James McPhail, Shelley McGraw, Julius Minor, Pamela Smith, John Supple, Benita Whitehorn, Kenyata Whiteside.

**Call to Order:** President, Mr. Ryan Upshaw called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

**Guest Speaker:** Ryan welcomed our Chancellor Dr. Jones for the meeting. First, Dr. Jones appreciated and thanked all our staff council members for their hard work. He mentioned that he is glad to see the remarkable progress of our University. The demand has been increasing year by year and we received much more applications this year when compared to last year. According to enrollment predictions for this fall semester, there could be at a possible increase of 20%. First time in history, selective admission process might be implemented for out-of- state applicants. He also mentioned that this strong growth would demand lots of challenges in Ole Miss infrastructure. The new residence halls construction will commence soon. Student union and Johnson commons facility will be expanded to meet our increasing needs.

Dr. Jones also spoke briefly on current budget issues of University of Mississippi. State revenue makes up one forth of the UM budget. Although we expect 2 to 6% additional cut from the State budget in the next fiscal year, it may not have major impact on our budget because of our increase in enrollment and also in tuition fees. He realizes that our faculty and staff didn't get raise in their compensation for the past few years. The board is working on this issue with the available resources. He also accepted the possibility of facing political influence on board's decisions.

The Chancellor was asked to comment on the faculty salary increase campaign. Most of our faculties were supported from one or more of the following sources via state funding, tuition fees, grants/contracts or private donations. Fund raising programs may begin soon to meet with the increase in faculty salaries. When asked about the parking facilities, he replied that we have sufficient parking available for now. In future, we may work with city transportation system and operate "Park and ride" facility with shuttle services to campus. The Chancellor was asked about student retention. Regarding this issue, the Provost Office has introduced more programs and

counseling activities to increase the retention and graduation rates. He also responded to the question about Ole Miss admission standards. It is fixed by the board and will remain equal for all public universities in the state. But the new, academic rank based, selective admission process would help to admit more qualified students to the university. He also mentioned that the old law school would be used as classrooms. He was then asked about the possibility of increasing staff benefits. He responded by saying that the decisions are made at state agency level and we don't have a control over these programs. The Chancellor was asked about retirement incentives that some campuses offer to those that are eligible for retirement. The Chancellor does not feel that this program would be suitable for our university, as it is hard to determine the staff eligibility for retirement. Finally he commented that our university is a "remarkable" place to work and the visitors have been impressed with the pride and hospitality of the people who work for Ole Miss. He also feels very optimistic about our growth in future.

**Roll call:** Recorded by Premalatha Balachandran.

**Minutes:** The February minutes were approved by consensus. The minutes were sent out via email and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Premalatha Balachandran.

**Treasurer's Report:** The February treasurer's report was approved by consensus. The treasurer's report was sent out via email and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Patricia Oswald.

#### **Old Business:**

Staff appreciation: Patricia Oswald and Dawn Bullion gave an update on Staff appreciation week planning. All the staff council members were requested to contact local vendors/businesses for awards and prizes. The members were asked to notify Dawn Bullion about the prizes they receive from vendors and hand over them to Johnette. Next Staff appreciation committee meeting was tentatively scheduled to be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.00pm.

Outstanding Staff member Elections: Elaine Little reminded about the responsibility of election committee to select an Outstanding Staff member, who will be awarded during Staff appreciation week.

#### **New Business:**

Recognition of Outgoing members: Ryan Upshaw handed over recognition certificates to the following outgoing Staff council members: Sandra Cox-McCarty, Neal Sellers, Johnny Price, Mark Camarigg, Johnette Taylor Jenkins and Elaine Little. Debbie Bishop, Carol Bullard, Angie Gurner, John Supple and Benita Whitehorn were not present to receive their certificates. It will be handed over to them at a later time. He thanked the members for all the hard work they have done for the Staff council.

Introduction of new members: Ryan asked all the new members to introduce themselves to the council. He welcomed them all. He also explained the role of Staff council at university and how it could be helpful for our staff.

**Announcements/Concerns:**

Johnny Price introduced himself as a Treasurer for University Lion's club. He explained about the community services rendered by Lion's club and also gave details about membership.

Ryan reported about the need for change in Campus wide outstanding staff member selection to ensure fairness in the process. According to this new method, the selection committee consisting of one member from each EEO category will review all the nominations and decide the winner. This change in the selection process was approved by consensus. Staff council bylaws will be updated accordingly.

The Chancellor Dr. Jones or Vice-Chancellor Mr. Larry Sparks will be requested to address our campus- wide staff meeting in April.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Minutes recorded by Premalatha Balachandran.