

The University of Mississippi

Minutes of Meeting November 4, 2009

Staff Council

PPD Conference Room

Present: Dotty Baker, Prema Balachandran, Holly Bethune, Debbie Bishop, Lisa Bishop, Carol Bullard, Dawn Bullion, Mark Camarigg, Jessica Coker, Sandra Cox-McCarty, Tiffany Edwards, Stan Fortner, Mark Garneau, Alicia Goodson, Sheila Goolsby, Angie Gurner, Shellie Harrison, Marla Holcomb, Gwen Hutchins, MaryAnn Kerr, Natcha Knight-Evans, Elaine Little, Jane Michelletti, Erin Miller, Julius Minor, Valerie Moncrief, Patti Mooney, Patricia Oswalt, Paula Park, Anita Randle, Neal Sellers, Johnette Taylor, Benita Whitehorn

Absent-Excused: Karinlee Brister, Chad Hunter, Stephanie Mitchell, Johnny Price, Ryan Upshaw, Jacqueline Vinson

Absent-Unexcused:

Call to Order: Johnette Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Pam Johnson, Assistant Director of Benefits and Compensation, Human Resources. She briefly spoke on some of the changes in benefits for the upcoming year effective January 1, 2010. She clarified some changes in the insurance benefits. Effective January 1, for employees with the Base plan, deductibles would rise from \$1150 to \$1200 for single coverage and from \$2300 to \$2400 for family coverage. For Select plan employees, it will be \$500 for single and \$1000 for family coverage. The Rx deductible will go up to \$75/participant. Also effective 1/1/10, Rx generics will be \$12, Preferred Brand will be \$40, and Non-Preferred Brand will be \$65. Currently under Well Child care benefits, if you have a child under 18 and use a network provider costs are covered 100%. The plan will cover 75% for out of network as of 1/1/10. Under the Adult Well Care benefit, after completing the Health Quotient, currently the limit is \$1000 per year, as of 1/1/10, the limit is waived. Currently you can have only 1 wellness exam, as of 1/1/10, you may have 2. The substance abuse/mental health benefit limits will be eliminated as of 1/1/10. Currently it is 80-20. The vision program began in 2008 and has been very successful. There has been great participation in the program with few or no complaints or problems. The yearly contribution limits to the Supplemental Retirement Plans (403b and Deferred Compensation) will be \$16,500. If you are over the age of 50, the limit will be \$22,000.

Roll call and Introduction of new Staff Council representatives: Dawn Bullion was introduced as our newest Staff Council member. She will be replacing Dana Ros who had to step down. Also introduced were our new members from our satellite campuses. Valerie Moncrief will be representing the Southaven campus, Alicia Goodson will be representing the Tupelo campus, and Jessica Coker will be representing the Grenada campus.

Minutes: October minutes approved by consensus

Treasurer's Report: Dotty Baker will send the October Treasurer's Report by email for approval at the December meeting. The Staff Council will be approving two reports (October and November) at the December meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Johnette advised that Stephanie Mitchell is continuing progress on the website.
- b) Staff Council shirts – Those members who have not paid Dotty Baker their \$11.00 (one half the cost) need to do so by the end of the week.
- c) Group picture will be taken at the December meeting. Please wear your Staff Council shirts.

New Business:

- a) The Executive Board met with the Chancellor. The following was discussed:
 - The Chancellor intends to follow in the footsteps of Chancellor Khayat with a Thanksgiving meal. When asked if the campus would close after this meal as it has in the past he said he would take that idea under advisement and would notify the campus at a later time.
 - The Executive Board extended an invitation to the Chancellor to attend our annual Holiday Party in Bryant Hall
- b) Committee Reports –
 - Recycling Committee – The committee met 10/20/09. Benita advised that Staff Council can send a letter to the Chancellor regarding the Recycling Infrastructure Requirements in the Comprehensive Recycling Program. Benita will email this to Johnette to pass on to the Staff Council members. Benita also brought up the idea of a possible recycling competition. A Recycling Task Force is being formed. Johnette asked that Benita research when a day for National Recycling Month is observed and it was mentioned that April is National Recycling Month.
 - Student Relations Committee – Marla Holcomb advised that the committee met on 11/3/09 and discussed the Exam Breakfast. The breakfast will be on 12/8/09 from 9-11 pm in the PBJ Cafeteria. Volunteers were asked to sign a sign-up sheet before leaving the meeting and it was also asked that members be on the lookout for celebrity servers to volunteer their time. Also discussed at the meeting was an idea of “pairing” international students with staff. Marla Holcomb will contact Greta Provoost to discuss this new program idea.
 - Staff Council Bylaws – Jane Michelletti and Mark Garneau are continuing progress on updating these. They will meet again Monday, 11/30/09 at 10 am with the executive officers. Mark and Jane will give an update at a later date.
 - Shellie Harrison who is a representative for the Faculty/Staff Traffic Appeal Board reminded the members of the rules for the hangtag and ball sticker.
 - Staff Appreciation Committee - will meet on 11/19/09 at 1:30 pm in Ventress Hall.
 - Chancellor’s Inaugural Committee – Johnette is on this committee and the Inauguration will be in April
- c) United Way Campaign – kicked off on 11/2 and will continue thru 12/4. The goal for 2009 is \$130,000. Johnette encouraged Staff Council to attend the events and to donate their “Fair Share”. “Fair Share” is one hour of the employee’s salary and is made in two installments per month.

There will be road blocks set up 11/19-11/20 from 11 am-1 pm near the Union to give donations. December 4th will be the breakfast. It will be served in the Union and will cost \$5 per person. More information on the events for the 2009 United Way Campaign can be found at <http://www.olemiss.edu/info/unitedway/> .

Alicia Goodson requested our support in the future to give to her county's United Way. Johnette said she would pass this suggestion on to Thelma Curry, the University's United Way representative.

- d) Adopt-a-Basket – Started 4 years ago and will be held again this year. Names for the families that the baskets are donated to are collected by University personnel, local ministries and organizations. An email will be sent with a list of needs. There were some changes made this year. The gift card is now \$35 to accommodate the family buying the perishable items. Patricia asked to buy only what was on the list but not to focus only on one item. 215 baskets were distributed in 2008. Patricia asked for volunteers on Wednesday, 11/18 from 3-5 pm to help collect the supplies and on Thursday, 11/19 from 7:30 am- 12 pm to pack the boxes. Boxes will be donated by the Physical Plant and this will all be done in the Union Ballroom. If a department needs someone to pick up the supplies, there will be staff members to assist, just let Patricia know of the need.
Johnette also mentioned that if satellite campuses would like to send donations, she would pick up the supplies for a basket. She also suggested that Staff Council put together 1-2 boxes and asked Patricia to coordinate. Jane suggested dividing the cost and giving Patricia donations. Patricia asked that donations be brought to Ventress Hall the week of 11/9-11/13.
- e) Johnette announced the Daniel Nelson fund had now been closed with \$3200.00+/- . Tiffany Edwards will be meeting with Randy Nelson to give him this final check.
- f) Outstanding Staff Member for October – the outstanding staff member for October is Dr. Travis Yates. He is a physician in Student Health and will be given a certificate and coupon for the Commons for this honor. He was nominated by Lisa Bishop.

Announcements/Concerns:

- a) Staff Council Representative of the Month is Stephanie Mitchell. We thank her for her diligence on the website. A certificate and a Pizza Hut coupon card will be given to her for this honor.
- b) December meeting will be a brief meeting then we will have finger foods. Johnette asked all members bring a finger food dish and drink to next month's meeting. She also reminded members of the group picture to be taken and asked that all members wear their new shirts.
- c) ASB had tabled the push for a new mascot to make room for the issue of "The South Will Rise Again" being said when *From Dixie with Love* is played by the band. The Staff Council had originally written a letter in support of the first initiative. Johnette asked if the Staff Council would be in favor of editing the original letter to support the Chancellor with the initiative already in place. After a discussion on the idea, it was decided the Council would in fact support this initiative and Johnette would re-write the letter to reflect the new issue and send by email to the Council before submitting it.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2009, Physical Plant Conference Room