

Present: Prema Balachandran, Jeff Boyd, Carol Bullard, Dawn Bullion, Sandra Cox-Mccarty, Tiffany Edwards, Mark Garneu, Shelia Goolsby, Melinda Grimmatt, Doug Gurley, Johnette Taylor Jenkins, Mary Ann Kerr, Natcha Knight-Evans, Elaine Little, James McPhail, Julius Minor, Stephanie Mitchell, Valerie Moncrief, Patricia Oswalt, Paula Park, Lori Patton, Anita Randle, Precious Pratt Thompson, Ryan Upshaw.

Absent-Excused: Debbie Bishop, Mark Camarigg, Angie Gurner,

Absent-Unexcused: Karenlee Brister, Becky Drewery, Stan Fortner, Alicia Goodson, Ashley Harell, Ed Movitz, Johnny Price, Neal Sellers, John Supple, Dorothy Vaughn, Benita Whitehorn.

Call to Order: President Ryan Upshaw called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Roll call: Sign-up sheet circulated to record roll call.

Introduction of Guests:

Ryan introduced our first Speaker/ Guest, Mr. Scott Kreeger from University Counseling Center to speak about "Lets Talk' Program.

Mr. Scott gave brief introduction about their counseling program called "Let's talk". Four centers are available in campus from Monday through Thursdays (12-2pm). He said this program should be more accessible to students and he requested SC members to bring students for counseling and talk to any of their counselors. Bookmarks about this program were distributed. More information is available on their website.

Ryan Suggested to change the timings as 12-2pm is around lunchtime.

Ryan introduced our next speaker, Mr. Jim Morrison, the Director, Office of Strategic Planning to talk about our Chancellor's new plan called "UM 2020"

Jim and his office is planning to coordinate meetings and discussions with Students, Faculty and Staff during the next 6 months to bring their ideas and suggestions into the new plan, UM 2020. SC will be contacted in about 6 weeks. Planning will be finalized by April/May 2011. The following programs may be given high priority under this plan:

- Green initiative/Recycling.
- Alternative Transport for the campus.
- Bike sharing/Get back program.
- Energy management.

Announcements:

Ryan announced that Dotty Baker had to resign from her secretary position and SC representative as well due to less staff in her office. He announced that Dr. Premalatha Balachandran who is currently Text book scholarship administrator, has thankfully agreed to take up the Secretary position, in addition to her current position, upon his request.

Staff council Photos will be taken soon after the meeting.

Minutes: The August minutes of the meeting was approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report - The August Treasurer's report was approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business:

Welcome week: Ms. Dawn Bullion was asked to speak about the Welcome week event. She said that although it was successful, in future she suggested that Staff Council can make initiatives for this program as it is hard to communicate with the current organizers for making arrangements. Johnette said that Staff council organized this program few years back and she will talk to Carolina, who is a current organizer, about the Staff council's interest to organize this event in future.

Textbook Scholarship program: Ryan asked Dr. Premalatha Balachandran, Textbook Scholarship Administrator to give an update on this program. Textbook Scholarship program report for Fall 2010 was circulated among members. Premalatha mentioned that 93 applications were received and 88 awards were issued. Among these 14 staff fall into <\$22K/annum salary range, 53 staff from \$22K-35K range and 21 staff from \$35 to \$50K range. The award amount/staff varied from \$13.49 to \$150.00. 4 applicants from Satellite campuses were awarded. The total amount awarded was \$10,086.41 for this fall semester. 3 applicants were rejected due to their ineligibility of award criteria.

COMPASS: Ryan asked Ms. Anita Randle to speak about the current status of this program. She said 4 mentees and 2 mentors have signed up thus far. Ms. Andrea Jakobsons from Human resources is looking for more mentors for this project. Ryan asked SC members to come forward and sign up as either mentors or mentees. Ms. Dawn Bullion mentioned that asking for signature from their supervisor is the concern for many staff to sign up for this program. Anita replied that HR advises supervisor's signature, as mentor/mentee may have to meet during their office hours. (for e.g. to deposit a check in a bank). Other SC members, Ms. Carol Bullard and Ms. Stephanie Mitchell also expressed their concerns about the involvement of HR in this project. Ryan mentioned that Andrea has put lot of her efforts into this project. He said a special meeting on COMPASS would be arranged soon for the SC members to discuss and express their ideas and opinions on this project.

New Business:

Meeting with the Chancellor:

The executive committee met with Chancellor on September 7th, 2010 and discussed several topics. Chancellor is very supportive of our COMPASS project. Ryan mentioned that our University is not as competitive in compensation and Chancellor is aware about non-pay raises in the last few years. He is looking for possible opportunities to give pay rise to our staff. Also he mentioned that increase in enrollment would have positive impact on our budget.

Announcements/Concerns:

Outstanding Staff Member: Mr. Doug Gurley nominated Ms. Joann M. Harris of Small Business Development center for her hard work. Ms. Paula Park nominated Ms. Terry Kitchens of Parking services for her long working hours especially during August.

Ms. Terry was the winner. She will be presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Staff Council Representative of the Month (August) will be announced later.

Meeting Adjourned at 3.36 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6th, 2010, 2:30 p.m. at the Physical Plant conference room.

*Minutes of the Meeting recorded by:
Premalatha Balachandran
Secretary,
UM Staff Council.*