

**Mississippi State University
Staff Council**

January 11, 2012

10:30 a.m.

Present: Amanda Bell, Linda Perry Babcock, Robbie Black, Amy Burchfield, Allen Cooperwood, Patricia Cox, Mary Dikes, Sherry Fisackerly, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Dinah Jenkins, Marc Measells, Natalie Ray, Cade Smith, Faye Smith, Jonathan Tucker, Mary Vaughn, and Angela Waller.

Absent: Missy Hadaway, Debbie Huffman, Jane Lewis, Sam Manning, Mandy Netadj, Jessica Northcutt, and Adrienne Washington.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes of the December 14, 2011, meeting were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that the Staff Survey has been sent to the vice presidents. She and Cade will discuss this with them at the Executive Council meeting on January 23rd. Amanda asked if Staff Council wants to do any type of community service this semester. She asked members to let her know of any ideas. The Executive Board met with Judy Spencer to discuss the Staff Compensation Policy. Judy will be presenting it to the Executive Council in January or February. Staff Council's Executive Board was pleased with the policy and will help HRM promote the policy when it is approved. The Martin Luther King Breakfast will be Monday, January 16th, at 7:00 a.m. The program will follow at 8:00. The speaker will be former governor William Winter.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar Committee. Lisa Hearn reported that the Calendar Committee will be meeting tomorrow. The Thursday night game has been canceled, so the committee will discuss whether to move the students' fall break to sometime in October rather than having a full week at Thanksgiving. It was stated that the students prefer the break in October.

Master Planning Committee. Sam Manning announced that Phi Kappa Phi wants to buy the Agriculture Fraternity house and make renovations. Golf's master plan will be incorporated into the university's master plan. The graduating class of 2012 wants to reactivate the practice of leaving a gift for the university. They plan to join with the class of 2013 to renovate the Bulldog Ring and have it reinstalled in front of the Union. This was a concrete circle of benches donated by a class from the early 1900s.

Quality Enhancement Plan Committee. Penny French stated that a task force for the SACS accreditation committee is working to identify the topic the university will use for the Quality Enhancement Plan that is required for SACS accreditation reaffirmation. She will send a copy of a PowerPoint presentation to Staff Council members. She would like feedback at the February meeting.

Benefits. Mary Vaughn stated that the Benefits Committee approved the Retire-Wise Program. This series of sessions to assist in retirement planning will be held February 21st, 27th, 28th, and 29th. Staff Council will assist in promoting these sessions.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Employee Development. Pat Cox announced that there will be a series of sessions on Alzheimer's disease for care givers. There will be three sessions in the morning on April 4. These same sessions will be repeated that afternoon. On April 5th, two additional sessions will be offered. This will be open to everyone at the university and the city of Starkville.

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Cox asked the status of the goals set at the Staff Council Retreat. The reorganization of the committees will require a by-laws change. Amanda asked Pat Cox and Cade Smith to review the by-laws and make recommendations on committee changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Appreciation Day. Cade Smith led the group in a discussion of the format of Staff Appreciation Day. He asked whether this is a good use of Staff Council's time and resources given the mission of Staff Council. The overall consensus was that there should be some sort of day for staff. He asked that people volunteer to serve as chair of one of the following committees: Entertainment, Food, Games, Publicity, Volunteers, and Zacharias Distinguished Staff Awards. An email will be sent to solicit volunteers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that the E&G fund has a balance of \$17,870.97; the Foundation account has a balance of \$27,345.62.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Purvis, Acting Recording Secretary
January 11, 2012