

**Mississippi State University**  
**Staff Council**  
April 11, 2012  
10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Linda Babcock, Amanda Bell, Amy Burchfield, Allen Cooperwood, Patricia Cox, Mary Dikes, Sherry Fisackerly, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Dinah Jenkins, Jane Lewis, Sam Manning, Jessica Northcutt, Faye Smith, Jonathan Tucker, Mary Vaughn, and Angela Waller.

**Absent:** Robbie Black, Missy Hadaway, Debbie Huffman, Marc Measells, Mandy Netadj, Natalie Ray, Cade Smith, and Adrienne Washington.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Minutes of the March 14, 2012, meeting were approved as submitted.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Amanda Bell reported that Executive Council did not meet this month. The Office of Research and Economic Development is sponsoring "Cyber Ecosystem" by Peter Fonash. It will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Fowlkes Auditorium of the Colvard Student Union. The Information Technology Committee is looking at possible systems to consolidate email on campus. The university has received a \$600,000 grant from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield to build a walking track near the Sanderson Center. A stipulation of the grant is that the university be tobacco free by November 15, 2012. Students had earlier approved a tobacco free policy for campus which included the phasing out of designated smoking areas over a period of one year. There is some question as to whether students will approve the faster timeline. Amanda asked the group if they would support being tobacco free by November. After much discussion, the group agreed that going tobacco free should be phased in over a year's time.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Strategic Planning Committee. Amanda reported that about 300 comments were received on the proposed strategic plan. Those comments are being taken into consideration. The final strategic plan is expected to be released by July 1, 2012.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Benefits. Chair, Mary Vaughn, had no report.

Employee Development. Pat Cox, Chair, stated the Alzheimer's program was well received. She feels that other health-related programs will be beneficial.

Staff Appreciation Day Committee.

Zacharias Distinguished Staff Awards. Lisa Hearn reported that she has received about 30 nominations. The deadline for nominations is April 12<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed the selection criteria.

Food. Jane Lewis announced that instead of chicken leg quarters, this year there will be a grilled, boneless chicken breast with no sauce. Sauce will be available for anyone who wants it. Also, the number of buns has been increased so that people can make a chicken sandwich if they wish.

Activities. Amy Burchfield reported that she is on track for getting the inflatables and other activities.

Publicity. Angela Waller reported the t-shirts have been ordered and should be in next week. The group discussed when to have the sale. The Publicity Committee will discuss and decide on a date. She also mentioned that mailers would go out o staff about April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing reported.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Proposed Changes to Constitution/By-Laws. The council discussed the proposed changes. Some revisions were discussed. The changes were approved with the stated revisions. It will now be submitted to the president for approval.

Sign up for Support Staff Conference. A sign-up sheet was passed around for council members to volunteer to work the registration desk at the Support Staff Conference.

Sign up for Staff Appreciation Day T-Shirt Sale. The group decided to change the date of the sale, so no sign-up sheet was distributed.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Amanda Bell reported that the E&G fund has a balance of \$17,348.04; the Foundation account has a balance of \$31,695.34.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Purvis, Acting Recording Secretary  
April 11, 2012