

**Mississippi State University
Staff Council**

October 12, 2011
10:30 a.m.

Present: Linda Perry Babcock, Amanda Bell, Robbie Black, Amy Burchfield, Allen Cooperwood, Patricia Cox, Sherry Fisackerly, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Debbie Huffman, Dinah Jenkins, Jane Lewis, Anthony Lowe, Sam Manning, Marc Measells, Mandy Netadj, Natalie Ray, Cade Smith, Faye Smith, Mary Vaughn, and Angela Waller.

Absent: Mary Dikes, Missy Hadaway, Jessica Northcutt, Jonathan Tucker, and Adrienne Washington.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that she attended the Executive Council meeting where Dr. Keenum approved the administrative closing policy regarding mandatory or essential personnel on campus.

Human Resources sent a memo thanking the Staff Council for their participation in the Health Benefit Fair.

At the Master Planning Meeting, a proposal was submitted to change the name of Building 3 to North Hall. In regard to dining at MSU, the Panda Express was reported up and running with renovations complete in the Perry Cafeteria. Parking Services presented their new plan for 2012-2013 which is a tiered parking structure including Premium, Regular, Remote, and Very Remote parking options. There was an option mentioned involving parking at the Sportsplex on Lynn Lane in Starkville allowing those interested the ability to park and ride an MSU shuttle to campus removing the need for a permitted vehicle on campus, but it is still going through the approval process.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Game Day Operations. Cade Smith reported the committee met and decided to take away the tailgate set up spots on Creelman and Stone in certain areas where safety is a concern.

Benefits. Mary Vaughn reported the Benefits Committee met on September 28th and discussed open enrollment that will remain open until October 25th. Trina Smith from Human Resources reported on some possible upcoming changes with MSU employee benefits, including Davis Vision allowing dependents up to 26 years of age, Delta Dental allowing dependents up to 26 years of age and two cleanings a year (rather than every 6 months as before). Mary also reported there was discussion that the vision plan may be too limited, so further investigation may be forthcoming. Mary also mentioned that Trina Smith discussed changes to flexible spending which now requires direct deposit and will be deducted semi-monthly rather than monthly. In regard to Benefits, Mary also said that Judy Spencer reported that IHL HR directors have started meeting quarterly in an effort to provide more input to IHL in the benefit choices for the IHL governed institutions. Changes reported for 2012 benefits is that the pharmacy flu shot is included, and for 2013, it is likely that the health care reform initiative will cause an increase in benefits. Mary concluded her report announcing Dr. Gilbert would be sending out an e-mail to faculty and staff regarding the PERS Study Commission in an effort to get input from MSU employees to the Commission regarding the suggested changes to the plan.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dinah Jenkins, Publicity Chair, & Sam Manning, Co-Chair announced Homecoming jacket sales would be at the vet school during the morning hours and at Bost in the afternoon on October 31st. The jackets will cost \$20 each. A volunteer sheet was passed around to get volunteers to sign up to help sell jackets on that day.

Pat Cox, Employee Development Chair, asked for feedback from Staff Council regarding an Alzheimer information program offered for employee development to which the committee agreed there would likely be interest.

OLD BUSINESS

Amanda Bell reported that she sent an updated list to the individuals serving as chair on the standing committees in an effort to stop those who served last year from getting e-mails by mistake. Joe Ferris responded that some of the lists were still being updated, but they are working to get the problem resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Meeting. Amanda Bell discussed the Strategic Planning Meeting for Staff Council from the day prior. Some of the topics discussed were the creation of a Staff Council newsletter (which Sam Manning volunteered to begin working on); identifying employee issues through town hall meetings, e-mail surveys, suggestion boxes, and Reflector articles. Amanda also mentioned at the next meeting possibly revamping committees and assigning goals accordingly in an effort to allow those interested with the opportunity to serve on committees for which they are passionate.

Staff Opinion Survey. Cade Smith reported that the results from the survey were in the final stages and would be relayed to the faculty and staff via the newsletter and/or website as soon as possible.

Anthony Lowe made a suggestion for the newsletter to include some interesting facts or campus "myths" pertaining to faculty and staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that the E&G fund has a balance of \$18,708.02; the Foundation account has a balance of \$29,328.32; and the Endowed fund has a balance of \$22,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Netadj, Recording Secretary
October 28, 2011