

**Mississippi State University
Staff Council**

February 15, 2012

10:30 a.m.

Present: Linda Babcock, Amanda Bell, Robbie Black, Amy Burchfield, Allen Cooperwood, Mary Dikes, Sherry Fisackerly, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Dinah Jenkins, Jane Lewis, Sam Manning, Marc Measells, Mandy Netadj, Natalie Ray, Cade Smith, Faye Smith, Jonathan Tucker, and Mary Vaughn.

Absent: Patricia Cox, Missy Hadaway, Debbie Huffman, Jessica Northcutt, Adrienne Washington, and Angela Waller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes of the January 11, 2012, meeting were approved as submitted.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Provost & Executive Vice President, spoke to staff council about upcoming changes at Mississippi State University to include: the development of an Amorous Relationship Policy, parking permit changes based on a tiered structure, shuttles from Sportsplex to campus, possible new shuttle routes into the community, and the construction of a new classroom building with the potential of added parking. Dr. Gilbert went on to mention the new Information Technology Council chaired by Mike Rackley that is working to determine the potential of non-duplicating services on campus (i.e., single email system campus wide). He spoke briefly about the Strategic Planning Committee and how employees can still go to that website to comment. He discussed the re-accreditation efforts on campus and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is to be implemented for 2013. He went on to mention bids have gone out for the demolition of Aiken Village in order to eventually build a new apartment complex with the potential to serve married, graduate, and international students. Dr. Gilbert also discussed how Facilities Management/Campus Operations is working to provide better services to MSU through their own inquiries and investigations. He mentioned an upcoming trip to Jackson to meet about the budget. He expects we will see a modest cut but nothing that should affect employees on the departmental levels. It is expected that the cut will be offset by a tuition increase. It is hoped the Staff Compensation policy will be in effect by July 1st. This policy will give more responsibility and flexibility to unit managers to set pay rates at hiring and to request reclassifications.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that she is serving on the Information Technology Council mentioned by Dr. Gilbert where some progress has also been made to make travel and leave processes electronic. Amanda mentioned the Executive Council met. She and Cade presented the staff survey results to the Vice Presidents. There will be an e-mail going out to let staff know that the results are posted on the Staff Council website. Amanda also reported that the Student Association has proposed its resolutions regarding the Tobacco Free Campus movement and a vote should take place soon. There will be a survey going out to staff soon about the Tobacco Free Campus effort.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar Committee. Lisa Hearn reported that the calendar committee met and decided that fall break this year would occur on Oct. 4th and 5th since our Thursday game was rescheduled.

Game Day Operations. Cade Smith reported that the committee has formed four sub-committees to address 1) tailgating, 2) coordination of outside services, 3) need for a Game Day app, and 4) special recycling bins designated at the entry gates.

President's Commission on the Status of Minorities. Dinah Jenkins reported that the President's Commission on the Status of Minorities will hold a Diversity Conference in the Colvard Union on March 1st. Please e-mail Dinah if you would like to volunteer an hour of your time to assist. Also, they are asking for gifts/give-aways/door prizes for the 20 speakers who are volunteering their time for this event. Please let Dinah know if you have something that could be donated.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits. Chair Mary Vaughn reported on upcoming benefits workshops in the next two weeks to assist in planning for retirement.

Programming. Pat Cox, Chair, was absent, but Amanda Bell did mention that Pat has been working on the Alzheimer information sessions and set the dates for April 4th and 5th in the Bost Theater.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing reported.

NEW BUSINESS

New Officers. Mary Vaughn, Dinah Jenkins, and Robbie Black have been appointed as the Nominations and Elections Committee. They are in the process of setting a slate of nominees for new officers for the 2012-13 year. Those interested in serving need to let one of the committee members know if they would like to serve as Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary. Staff Council will elect new officers at the March meeting.

Staff Appreciation Day. Cade Smith is serving as head of the Staff Appreciation Day committee over the following chairs:

Mandy – Entertainment

Jane – Food

Amy & Jonathan- Activities

Lisa & Mary- Zacharias Awards

Jessica- Volunteers

Angela, Dinah, & Sam- Publicity

All Staff Council members need to sign up for a committee, or Amanda will assign them to one. Staff Appreciation Day is set for May 18th from 10-1.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Amanda Bell reported that the E&G fund has a balance of \$17,849.47; the Foundation account has a balance of \$27,345.67.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Netadj, Recording Secretary
February 15, 2012