

**Mississippi State University**

**Staff Council**

March 14, 2012

10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Linda Babcock, Amanda Bell, Robbie Black, Yolanda Boyd (for Cade Smith), Amy Burchfield, Patricia Cox, Mary Dikes, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Dinah Jenkins, Jane Lewis, Sam Manning, Marc Measells, Mandy Netadj, Jessica Northcutt, Natalie Ray, Mary Vaughn, and Adrienne Washington.

**Absent:** Allen Cooperwood, Sherry Fisackerly, Missy Hadaway, Debbie Huffman, Cade Smith (Yolanda Boyd came in his place), Faye Smith, Jonathan Tucker, and Angela Waller.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Minutes of the February 15, 2012, meeting were approved as submitted.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Amanda Bell introduced Yolanda Boyd who was sitting in for Cade Smith. Amanda reported that interviews are still taking place to fill the open positions on Staff Council. She stated that Executive Council met and approved two policies on the table: 1) the Amorous Relationship Policy and 2) the Staff Compensation Policy. Amanda mentioned that Judy Spencer is working on providing training for the policy to include the changes to the reclassification window. In addition, the Flag Policy updates were approved, and discussion took place about changing the name of the Midsouth Forestry Pavilion. Amanda reported that meetings are taking place with ITS to discuss updating websites to be more consistent with policy or some type of standard format. Also, the Information Technology Committee is working on the idea of a system to consolidate email on campus.

The Master Planning Committee met and discussed the Arbor Acres project and how everything for the new residence halls in that area is on schedule for Fall. The bids for the renovation of Lee Hall should be advertised in April. There will be some construction this summer on Blackjack that is likely to take about 75 days, but it should be complete before the Fall semester. The Master Planning Committee also discussed work on a dam at Norris Lake (MSU Golf Course) as it will have to be shortened/deepened to meet some EPA standards for which it is currently in violation.

Finally, Amanda reported that the Work Balance Committee is continuing to work on medical leave for employees who are adopting. Those with concerns related to the Work Balance Committee or the discussion of medical leave for adoption may contact Mary Vaughn or Amanda with those concerns.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President's Commission on the Status of Minorities. Dinah Jenkins reported that the President's Commission on the Status of Minorities held a Diversity Conference on campus for which some of the departments donated door prizes. She stated the conference went well and thanked all of those that contributed prizes.

Traffic & Parking Committee. Mandy Netadj reported that the Traffic and Parking Committee met to discuss ways they could improve efforts to educate bicycle riders to get off of their bicycles and walk their bikes across cross walks. Also, the committee discussed the idea of a helmet policy on campus, but that initiative was tabled for the time being.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Benefits. Chair, Mary Vaughn, had no report.

Programming. Pat Cox, Chair, spoke about the Alzheimer's program scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and that information would be going out in the following weeks. Pat also asked for volunteers to sign up to greet those attending the programs.

Staff Appreciation Day Committee.

Sam & Dinah/Publicity: reported that the t-shirt design was approved and 1,000 shirts have been ordered, so more information will follow about t-shirt sale dates. They also mentioned that mailers would go out soon to staff.

Amy Burchfield/Activities: reported there will be three inflatables at SAD, a tattoo booth, and Recreational Sports will have horseshoes, balls, and Frisbees for free play.

Mandy Netadj/Entertainment: reported the Cooke Trio has been booked to provide musical entertainment, and the photo booth idea was voted on by Staff Council and approved.

Jessica Northcutt/Volunteers: reported that an e-mail may be needed later for general staff volunteers.

Lisa Hearn/Awards: reported that they will be advertising the nomination forms in the coming weeks with an award nomination deadline of April 12. The award selection committee has been chosen. There will still be 6 awards at \$1,000 each.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing reported.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New Officers. Staff Council members voted for the new officers. Cade Smith was elected Chair, Jessica Northcutt was elected Vice Chair, and Amy Burchfield was elected Recording Secretary.

Staff Council partook in a food tasting for what could be served at Staff Appreciation Day. Jessica Northcutt mentioned the Support Staff Conference on May 9<sup>th</sup> in the Colvard Union, and that volunteers may be needed.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Amanda Bell reported that the E&G fund has a balance of \$17,793.54; the Foundation account has a balance of \$27,532.54.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Netadj, Recording Secretary  
April 3, 2012