

**Mississippi State University
Staff Council**

December 11, 2013

10:30 a.m.

Present: Amy Burchfield, Mary Dikes, Sherry Fisackerly, Tamara Gibson, Kenneth Graves, Sharon Hewlett, Shauncey Hill, Jane Lewis, Marc Measells, Mandy Netadj, Linda Perry-Babcock, Toni Roberson, Cade Smith, Faye Smith, Angela Waller, Alex Washington, Dan Whatley,

Other Present: Casey Finch

Absent: Ann Carr, Penny French, Lisa Hearn, Jenna Mosley, Jessica Northcutt, Natalie Ray, Rebekah Sparks, Adrienne Washington

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 13, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- **Executive Council** – Chair was absent
- **Faculty and Staff housing Appeals** – Chair was absent
- **Information Technology Council** – Chair was absent
- **Master Planning** – Cade Smith reported
 - ❖ Akin Village report was given by Cade Smith. The demand for graduate housing, especially international, was discussed. Topics of how expensive per square foot it would be to remove asbestos (3.5-5 million); seeking public/private proposals from investors to meet needs; and having facility university staffed and operated.
 - ❖ Delta Gamma House is undergoing a 1.4 million dollar 7,000 sq/ft expansion.
 - ❖ Evans hall will be demolished. A resident hall with 350 bed capacity will be constructed there. 3 year renovation of Rice Hall turns it in to 2 bedroom with shared bathroom.
 - ❖ Discussed a 6th and 7th grade school shared by MSU and school district. It will function as a 7th and 8th grade school with labs on MSU land.
 - ❖ MDOT 80/20 match fence up to Stone Blvd. to Hardy Street. Improvement of ditch on Stone Blvd.
- **President's Committee on Planning** – has not met

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics Committee – has not met

Athletic Council – has not met

Calendar Committee – has not met- Dates for the next meeting were previously discussed, but no dates were tentatively scheduled or finalized.

Community Engagement Committee – has not met

Conflict of Interest – has not met

Dining Advisory Committee – The committee discussed the openings and closings of certain food locations during the duration of the break.

Diversity Committee – representative not present

Efficiencies & Innovations Advisory Committee – The committee sent a list of individual to the VP of Budget and Planning to encourage VP's of divisions to evaluate use of overtime. This determined that it needed to be handled at the department level. Some other topics that were discussed to be supervised at the departmental level are: use of university vehicles and centralizing budget managers at the college level department by department with more innovative approaches.

Employee Benefits Committee – Discussion of insurance, Unum & Signa, was tabled until spring. Kim Thomas from HRM spoke about the Affordable Health Care Act.

Health & Wellness Committee – Blue Cross has given a grant for a program that will pay half of the costs for 300 faculty and staff members to go through a wellness program.

Financial Aid Appeals Committee – representative not present

Game Day – Commercial tent policy was finalized for another year. Next year there will be a fee associated with it. This fee will most likely be 10% of gross sales.

Information Security Committee – representative not present

Information Technology Advisory Committee –Some nasty computer viruses circulating around campus and the usual security discussions. New information training program for faculty and staff is being implemented.

President's Commission on the Status of Minorities – has not met

Recreation Advisory Committee – has not met

Traffic Appeals Committee – has not met

Traffic Policy Committee –has not met

Work-Life Balance Committee – representative on leave

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee – The Communications Committee has not met as a whole, but Tamara has agreed that the committee will be responsible for the Publicity portion of Staff Appreciation Day.

Events Committee – Bekah’s position has changed she has a new faculty title; Therefore, Kenneth Graves and Marc Measells have accepted to co-chair the Events Committee. The committee has not met as a whole, but Kenneth and Marc have discussed the planning of Staff Appreciation Day.

Policy and Procedures Committee – Educational Achievement for Bachelors/Masters is a new topic the committee will begin looking into. The committee is writing a memo follow-up for the Tuition Remission policy to identify the stages of the policy. Cade mentioned that Dr. Gilbert had contacted IHL in regards to the policy.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Roberson, Staff Council Secretary
January 8, 2014