**The University of Mississippi Staff Council Minutes of Meeting**

January 14, 2016 Facilities Management Conference Room

# Present: Kristina Boggan, Kelli Coleman, Gazel Giles, Alicia Goodson, Shellie Harrison, Carl Hill, Michael Moseley, Kara Parham, Cynthia Rimoldi, Pam Smith, Sovent Taylor,

**Absent-Excused:** Ev Barrett, Jessica Coker, Valerie Haynes, Jamie Irby, Jeff McManus, Robert Metzger, Jean Munson, Precious Thompson

# Absent-need to check on: Martina Brewer, Kelly Houston, Joanne Mitchell, EJ Presley

**Roll call:** (Sign-in sheet)

**Call to Order**

The January Staff Council meeting was called to order by Sovent Taylor at 10:35 AM, January 14, 2016.

# Report from Monthly Meeting with the Chancellor

# Dr. Vitter expressed an interest in putting together a task force of members from Staff Council, ASB, Graduate Student Council, and Faculty Senate.

# He asked about diversity training and believes that training is a good way to change culture.

# Kara provided Dr. Vitter with an update on the day care issue. She communicated that there seems to be unified support among faculty, staff, and administration.

# Dr. Vitter was very open to listening and learning.

# Parking was also briefly discussed with the Chancellor.

# Sovent was asked to serve on the Chancellor’s Transition Committee, specifically to determine the most pressing issues that he faces.

# The Chancellor committed to funding the textbook scholarships.

1. Approval of December Minutes & Treasurer’s Report
2. December Minutes

* Motion to approve by Gazel Giles.
* Seconded by Pam Smith.
* The minutes are sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Ev Barrett ([ebarrett@olemiss.edu](mailto:ebarrett@olemiss.edu) ).

1. December Treasurer’s Report

* Motion to approve by Carl Hill.
* Seconded by Shelley Harrison.
* The Treasurer’s Report is sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Kristi Boggan ([kboggan@olemiss.edu](mailto:kboggan@olemiss.edu)).

1. Nominate and Vote on Staff Member of the Month for January

* Ballot nominations are taken from the Staff Council website through staff member emails and from the Staff Council members at the meeting.
* The nominations included: Meme Mullins, Michael Lewis, Faye Young, Taylor Skelton.
* In selecting a Staff Member of the Month, the Staff Council voted on the nominees and declared that the current Staff Member of the Month is Meme Mullins (Human Resources).
* There was some discussion about needing more information about the nominees. Sovent is open to suggestions if anyone feels that changes to the process are needed.

**New Business**

1. Staff Appreciation Meeting next week

* Sovent will be attending so send him any ideas or questions for the group.
* The t-shirts last year were a big hit, and we will try to have a similar shirt this year.
* Sovent may ask for changing the venue for food. In the past, there had been an effort to alternate between off-campus vendors and on-campus vendors. This will be explored.

1. Events for Staff Appreciation

* We will have field events, basketball, and bingo (guidelines will be set), communiversity courses, belly dancing, plant swap.
* Sovent is open to suggestions.
* RebelWell will be involved.
* Carl has discussed an idea with Wendy Carmean about having a mobile farmers market that could be associated with Staff Appreciation week.
* We would like to give a lot of door prizes again this year, so it’s time to start contacting donors. We gave out many door prizes last year.
* Regional campuses have special issues with participating with Staff Appreciation. Sovent will work on finding ways for the regional campuses can participate.
* Water aerobics had a small group but we would like to keep it. Sovent will start looking for an instructor.

1. New member nominations and elections

* We need to add many new people this year. Our council has 38 spots and we currently have 24 members.
* We need to make sure that people know about the need, so get the word out through email and social media.
* Nominations begin February 15th – 19th and voting the following week.
* Jeff McManus is rolling off, so there is one open spot from the executive category.
* We need to prepare a document that gives reasons for participating on Staff Council. Sovent will take a reason from each council member to compile and send out.

**Old Business - none**

**Committee Updates**

1. Parking update

* Many parking spaces have been taken away due to the STEM building and the north end zone renovation.
* Turner Center parking will be coming back as Faculty/Staff during March which will add 30 spots.
* Fraternity Row parking has been commuter parking but change to residential parking (for fraternity residents) next fall.
* Faculty/Staff parking will be going up fro $160 to $170. Student parking is going up $50 on campus and $25 commuter.
* There will be a new four story parking garage behind Kincannon.
* Eventually the road in front of Guyton Hall that connects with Fraternity Row will go away.
* Kennon Observatory will be a major transportation hub.
* Eventually there will be changes to the road behind the Union and in front of Deaton.
* There is a new lot by Procurement.
* Whirlpool will become a major parking hub for Park and Ride. There will be 2 new buses that will go directly from Whirlpool to Kennon.
* New raised cross-walks are being built across University between the Ford Center and the Music buildings.

**Announcements/Concerns**

* Precious Thompson has requested donated leave time. You can contact Matthew Acree in HR. There is a limit on the amount that she can receive.
* EJ Presley will be Textbook Scholarship Coordinator.

**Meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.**

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Facilities Management Conference Room.

*Minutes submitted by Ev Barrett on February 10, 2016.*