

Present:

Premalatha Balachandran, Anne Scott Barrett, Patricia Coats, Jeremy Cook, Emily Echols, Gazel Giles, Lolita Gregory, Leah Hanks, Catherine Hultman, Le'Tosha James, Flora Jones, Tasha Jones, Torie Marion-White, Danielle Noonan, Sheila Padgett, Johnny Price, Steven Ridout, Jason Shirkey, Precious Thompson, Camille Toles, and Laura Vaughn

Absent:

Jessica Coker-Hughes, Erica Covington-Ford, Kevin Cozart, Shaquita Curry, Kimberly Gatewood, Mohamed Ali Ibrahim, Anne Klingen, Natcha Knight-Evans, Michael Marascalco, Je'Lisa McGee, Aretha Nabors, Erin Ridout, Jacqueline Vinson, Deetra Wiley, and Jason Wilkins

I. Call to Order

The December Staff Council meeting was called to order by Gazel Giles at 10:30 a.m. on December 11, 2018.

II. Attendance (sign in sheet)

III. Approval of Minutes – October and November

- The minutes are sent out via email. Any comments, questions, or changes should be emailed to Emily Echols (emily@olemiss.edu).
- Motion to approve October minutes by Catherine Hultman
- Seconded by Prema Balachandran
- Motion to approve November minutes by Precious Thompson
- Seconded by Laura Vaughn

IV. Approval of Treasurer's Report – November

- The Treasurer's Report is sent out via email. Any comments, questions, or changes should be emailed to Danielle Noonan (dnoonan@olemiss.edu).
- Motion to approve by Jacqueline Vinson
- Seconded by Precious Thompson

V. Staff Member of the Month for December

- Staff members submit nominations through UM Today announcements and the Staff Council website.
- The Staff Council members voted electronically on the nominees. The voting results for December are listed on page 4.
- Gazel announced that the Staff Member for the Month of December is Dewey Knight, Associate Director for the Center for Student Success and First Year Experience. An email notification was sent to Dewey and his supervisor. He will receive a gift card to Wal-Mart and will be recognized in UM Today.

VI. Reports from Committees

- Steven Ridout gave a report on the Parking Committee.
 - Currently, employees earning \$25,000 or less are eligible to receive a parking decal for half price.
 - The Committee is considering increasing the salary threshold to \$30,000.
 - Parking permits are not required at South Oxford Center for faculty, staff and students. The Committee is concerned that students may opt out of purchasing parking decals in order to park in this lot and take a shuttle to campus.
- Emily Echols gave a report on the Red and Blue Celebration.
 - The event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2019, in The Inn at Ole Miss ballroom.
 - The Committee is getting speakers lined up, and will reach out to Larry Sparks about giving a brief welcome.
 - The Committee is also in the process of obtaining quotes from caterers.
 - There will be an area designated for photos with props and the Ole Miss script from Special Events.
 - The Committee will work with Parking Services to allow staff and guests to park at The Inn during the event.
- Catherine Hultman gave a report on the Career Development Committee.
 - She is getting quotes from Woodson Ridge Farms for a half day and full day Staff Council retreat.
 - The retreat will be during a week day.
 - Staff Council voted to have the retreat in early summer.
 - Catherine will provide more information at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

- Gazel reported on the Staff Appreciation T-shirt Design Contest.
 - The winner will receive an \$150 cash prize.
 - The contest is open to all University staff including Staff Council members.
 - Designs will be submitted anonymously for voting by the Staff Council.
 - The chosen design will be printed on the Staff Appreciation t-shirts for May 2019.
 - The contest will be promoted on a poster board during the Holiday Reception on December 13, and it will be posted in UM Today.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- Gazel reported that she still needs a chair for the Fundraising Committee.
 - Children of University staff can apply to receive a \$500 scholarship per semester.
 - Scholarships were not awarded in the fall.
 - Funds are held at the Foundation and are awarded through the Bursar.
 - There are award eligibility requirements. Gazel will contact the Foundation and provide more information to the Council.
 - Staff Council members are not eligible to serve as the Fundraising Committee Chair if their children will be applying for the scholarship.

IX. Upcoming Events

- Holiday Reception: Thursday, December 13, 9-10:30 a.m. at the Ford Center
 - Sugaree's Bakery is providing individually wrapped cupcakes, and R&R Cookies is providing individually wrapped cookies.
 - Gazel is looking for volunteers to help set-up on Wednesday afternoon.
 - Volunteers are also needed on Thursday to help distribute 5-year and 10-year service award pins and to hand out goodies. Volunteers will need to be at the Ford Center by 8 a.m. on Thursday.
 - Email Gazel if you're interested in volunteering.
- Books and Bears: Friday, December 14, 9:30 a.m. in Fulton Chapel
 - Staff Council members were asked to donate new books and bears for ages K-12.
 - The event is for University service staff and is in its 21st year.
 - There are several drop off locations on campus.
 - A table for donations will be set-up at the Holiday Reception.
 - Gazel will see if there are more ways Staff Council can contribute to this important event.
- Staff Council's January meeting: Thursday, January 10, at the Tupelo campus
 - Gazel reported that Aretha Nabors is working on the details.
 - A tour and lunch will be provided.
 - This will be a great opportunity for team building and fellowship.
 - Please send Gazel an email if you're planning to attend so that transportation can be arranged.

X. Concerns/Questions/Comments

- Employee retiree gifts are provided by the Provost's office.
- Gazel met briefly with Elle Campbell, co-founder of the MS United Campus Workers organization which is associated with the Communications Workers of America Union.
 - The organization can't collectively bargain which makes it legal to be held on campus.
 - Gazel is unsure of the group's expectations and goals.
 - Staff Council isn't involved with this group, but members can join individually.
 - Members will not be removed from Staff Council for joining.
 - Anyone interested in attending the Union meetings can contact Elle Campbell.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next Staff Council meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ole Miss Tupelo campus.

Draft minutes submitted by Emily Echols on January 8, 2019.

Revised minutes submitted by Emily Echols on January 9, 2019.