



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## *Staff Council*

---

*Making a great place to work even better!*

**May 3, 2017**

**Miller Learning Center 214**

**2:30PM**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Staff Council Chair, Michael Lewis.

### **Roll Call**

*Members in attendance:* Christine Ahern, Chris Allinger, Devin Arnold, Jason Bedgood, Teri Berryman, Kaelin Broaddus, Theresa Cash, Debi Chandler (via sub Rachel Stroud), Kelly Cona, Shauna Corsaro, Melinda Eades, Danielle Free, Elmer Gray, Michele Griffin, Savannah Hembree (via sub Zach Morris), Stefani Hilley, Pattie Holly, Melissa Jackson, Kevin James, Jenna Jones (via sub Heather Uhlman), Brenda Keen, Laura Kelley, Kristin Lawrence, Michael Lewis, Brittney MacDonald, Marie Mize, Mary Moore, Maureen O'Brien, Laura Rhicard, Kyla Sterling, Joy Strickland, Carly Surratt, Jason Tiller, Shialoh Wilson, Beth Woods

*Members absent:* Victoria Cooper, Anjali Dougherty, Kat Farlowe, Stuart Ivy, Michael Kanning, Nichole Lunceford, Laquita Phillips, Kristi Wall, Evelyn Wilhite,

A quorum was present.

### **Minutes**

The March 2017 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

#### UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Michael Lewis reported that the University Council met twice since the last Staff Council meeting in March. At the March UC meeting, the registration calendar was discussed at length and voted on.

At the April UC meeting, there were many proposals for new majors or new departments. In one of these proposals, the proposal stated that no new staff would be hired. Michael wondered how that was possible.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

Michael reported that he attended a meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors. Kelly Kerner reported that the fundraising campaign is going very well, and now has a defined goal of \$1.2 billion. Income is anticipated to drop slightly next year, but overall the campaign is doing well. Michael shared a few

notes: 7,000 UGA students come from families whose income is below the poverty line. A little more than 1,200 of those students have a total family income of less than the cost of tuition alone, and thus the need for need-based scholarships. The good news is that the Woodruff Foundation donated \$30 million to the UGA Foundation. This money is earmarked for matching donations made by other folks. There are currently 178 scholarships funded. The administration hopes to create 700 scholarships.

Michael reported that he participated in the ceremony to commemorate UGA faculty, staff, and students who lost their lives this past academic year. The event was held at the Chapel and included President Jere Morehead, Janet Frick and local clergy.

Michael also reported that at the April UC meeting he invited faculty and administrators in attendance to volunteer at Staff Appreciation Day on May 11. Today Michael got an email from Arthur Tripp telling him that the event is carefully planned out and that Michael shouldn't speak on behalf of the organizing committee.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Melinda Eades announced that she is leaving the employ of UGA, and that she would no longer chair the Communications Committee. She believes Savannah Hembree will take over as chair. Christine Ahern thanked Melinda for her service and council gave her a round of applause.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael read the following:

<b>UGA Staff Council Treasurer's Report</b>		
Report Dates: January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017		
Beginning Balance		\$1,310.69
Income		
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Expenses		
Rental vehicle for Mize to attend USG Staff Council Conference	\$105.60	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$105.60</b>
Ending Balance 3/31/17		<u>\$1,205.09</u>
Respectfully Submitted,		
Teri Berryman Treasurer		

Mary Moore asked Michael if he would be going to the Foundation meeting. Michael said yes, and that it was being held at Lake Oconee, which is closer than St. Simon's Island. His trip expenses will eat into the balance slightly.

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Michael asked Joy Strickland to bring up an issue to this committee. Joy expressed her dismay that events at the Performing Art Center are discounted for students, but not for staff. Mary Moore added that she believes the student discount is subsidized by a grant from the UGA Family and Parents Foundation. Kelly Cona said her youngest son is a music major and he is required to attend many performances. Jason Tiller said that he is a former music major and that the required performances

also include free recitals. Joy added that football tickets are discounted for staff. Brenda Keen wondered if there were a way to discount unsold tickets at a certain time before the performance, and hourly staff could get first dibs. Mary added that it would benefit the PAC to have more people in attendance at all performances. Maureen O'Brien said she brought this issue up to David Saltz, the head of Drama, and he supports the idea of discounts for staff. Joy offered that perhaps UGA could offer staff a choice between discounted PAC season tickets and discounted football season tickets. Maureen added that season tickets at the PAC are already discounted for staff. Brenda pointed out that not everyone can afford paying a lump sum for season tickets. Kelly added that the discount taken on season football tickets shows up as taxable income on one's W2.

Michael asked if anyone on the Benefits and Compensation committee was willing to investigate this issue. Beth Woods volunteered to address this concern. Brenda thanked her for stepping up. Beth asked who else was on the committee and Mary read from the roster: Chris Allinger, Teresa Cash, Michael Kanning, Kristen Lawrence, Brittney MacDonald, Maurine O'Brien, and Jason Tiller. Mary added that a few of those people are new so they haven't met their fellow committee members yet.

#### UC HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Kelly reported that the gender equity study is ongoing. The committee has been charged with developing a more comprehensive comparison of the ORP and TRS retirement plans so that new employees could make smarter decisions.

#### UC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Laura Rhicard reported that the committee met on Friday. Toby Graham, head of UGA libraries, gave his report on the libraries and budget. There was a discussion about a repository at UGA for teaching materials and student papers. They also discussed challenges in accessing ebooks, and online resources. Michael shared that Toby Graham was the sole administrator at the UC meeting to approach him about volunteering for Staff Appreciation Day.

#### UC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mary reported that the committee did not meet this semester.

#### UC STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Laura Kelley reported that the committee met once this fiscal year via email. An issue of student safety, especially around the Ramsey Center, was brought up. Laura informed the committee that the issue is in proposal stage with the Campus Planning department.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Devin Arnold had no news.

#### UGARA REPRESENTATIVE

Maureen O'Brien announced that she would be retiring this summer, vacating this position. She said they meet at the Wray-Nicholson House on Tuesdays. The next meeting will be September 11. Michael said it's an appointed, not elected, position.

Then Maureen reported that Optum has been sold so a new company will be distributing funds to the retired staff for them to pay their health care. Anyone who is not on Medicare yet, and/or has vision

or dental coverage, will have to re-create an account. That means they will have to send a voided check to have their funds deposited electronically. They will be receiving a letter this week. action has to be done by the end of June.

## **New Business**

Michael introduced four new SC reps: Joy Strickland and Beth Woods from Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, Brittney MacDonald from Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Danielle Free from Development and Alumni Relations.

## **Election of Officers**

### VICE CHAIR

Marie Mize was the sole nominee. There were no nominations from the floor, and no objections, so she was elected by acclamation.

### COORDINATOR

Mary Moore was the sole nominee. There were no nominations from the floor, and no objections, so she was elected by acclamation.

### TREASURER

Jake Schindler and Stefani Hilley were the two nominees. There were no nominations from the floor. A vote was held, and Jake Schindler was elected.

While the votes for Treasurer were being tallied, Teresa Cash asked where the money for the Staff Council budget comes from. Michael said they come from the President. Teresa shared that she's trying to find out how to fund a SRG. Marie said that she would talk to Teresa about SRG funds. The Law School SRG started off with no money, but the dean gave them some money from his discretionary budget and now a couple of people donate to the SRG. Michael said that if the SRG has expenses, they should approach their dean or vice president about funding. Marie said they just asked their dean. She also shared that the SRG holds an open house for faculty and staff and a faculty member donated \$1,000 to the SRG. Michael asked if they could keep it more than a year, and Marie said yes. Michael clarified that there's money that is lost if not spent by the end of the year, and other money that can roll over. Shauna Corsaro said that state money must be spent down each year, but foundation money can roll over. She shared that the Vet School dean is generous and gives her SRG \$1500 per year. Also, her SRG also does fundraising to help with costs for their own staff appreciation ice cream social, and movie nights.

### SECRETARY

Kaelin Broaddus was the sole nominee. There were no nominations from the floor, and no objections, so she was elected by acclamation.

Kelly announced that elections for the open UC committee positions will be held in July, and the at-large executive committee positions will be held in June. Michael added that the Provost is coming to the July meeting, and should we move the UC committee elections to the August meeting. Mary said that an August election would be too late. Michael asked if we could hold those elections in June.

Mary pointed out that a June election would eliminate any chance of new SC reps running for those positions. Christine suggested an email ballot for July.

Mary announced that if any current SC reps are going to be replaced by new reps in July, they should feel free to bring their replacement to the June meeting, and to email Mary with the new reps names.

Kaelin announced that the University of Georgia Press was having an online blowout book sale through July 15<sup>th</sup>, and left fliers with information on the front table.

Kelly wondered how many more messages will be sent out about Staff Appreciation Day, and encouraged all reps to spread the word through their departments. Mary asked if there had been any mention of special buses. Michael said there would be buses, but the announcement hasn't been made. Christine encouraged all SC reps to get fliers up in their departments. Mary asked Michael if he could kindly tell Arthur Tripp that there has been little information about Staff Appreciation this year, and people don't know if it's happening. Michael said OK.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm by Michael Lewis.

The next Staff Council Executive Committee meeting is 3:30 pm Tuesday May 30, 2017 at the Conner Hall, room 103.

The next Staff Council meeting is 2:30 pm Wednesday, June 7, 2017 in MLC room 267.