February 6, 2018
Miller Learning Center, Room 348
2:30PM

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Staff Council President, Marie Mize.

Roll Call:

Members in attendance: Charlie Bauder, Brittany Barnes, Debi Chandler, Lesley Coffey, Hayley Cox, Melanie Crawford, Tamala Foreman, Jami Gilstrap, Elmer Gray (present via sub, Lisa Chandler), Michele Griffin, Matt Hammons (present via sub Audrey Stadler), Savannah Hembree, Stuart Ivy, Kevin James, Laura Kelley, Michelle Mathews, Liz Phillips, Jackie Mitchell, Marie Mize, Mary Moore, Matt Mundy, Jacob Schindler, Ken Schroder, Alec Shepherd, Gabrielle Saupe, Kyla Sterling, Matt Weeks, Beth Woods (present via sub, Lauren Blaise)

Members absent: Christine Ahern, Ian Armit, Kelly Cona, Anjali Dougherty, Macie Fouche, Danielle Free, Andrew Hanneman, Angie Heusser, Pattie Holly, Heather Macon, Emma Mattox, Brittney Minor, Amanda Shaw, Joy Strickland

A quorum was present.

January meeting minutes were approved.

Meeting was called to order at 2:30.

Marie thanked the council for their attendance.

University Council Committee Reports

Mary Moore was appointed to the 2025 Strategic Planning Committee and shared some background information with the group. In 2010 the university developed a ten year strategic plan, but found that it changes occurred during that time so quickly that a five year plan would make more sense going forward. Thirty people from all parts of the university were selected to participate in the 2025 strategic plan and were placed on three subcommittees focusing on teaching, research, and community
partnerships—each subcommittee will develop 3-5 overarching goals over the next 6-9 months with specific metrics for the next five years. Mary is on the community partnership subcommittee. Each subcommittee will conduct a series of focus groups. In addition to the focus groups there will be emailed surveys. Committee will develop goals that are given to the president and then those overarching goals will be given to all the units on campus in order for them to develop individual goals in line with university’s overarching goals.

Stuart Ivy, chair of the University Council Human Resources Committee, said that Dr. Michelle Cook talked to the group about the campus climate survey. The UC HR committee will break up into subcommittees based on campus climate study which will enable the group to be more responsive and flexible. Stuart welcomed any comments from the Staff Council on issues with Human Resources.

Ken Schroder with the UGA Retirement Association, share that there will be a new retirees reception in the spring. The group also discussed issues with the tobacco status option during benefit enrollment because three hundred employees failed to update status and were charge a fee. The group also discussed upcoming changes to the management of retiree’s benefits.

Kevin James with the University Council Student Life Committee reported that the group met on January 18th to see what students needed but discovered that the Student Government Association is negotiating well with the university’s administration, so the Student Life Committee decided to reevaluate its charge. They will meet again in late February.

Marie reminded that the group that the provost search was ongoing, with a total of four candidates participating in campus interviews which include public presentations. Candidates’ schedules and CVs are on the Office of the President’s webpage along with feedback surveys. Marie encouraged everyone to participate.

Marie also mentioned that in the President’s State of the University address the president mentioned a task force for staff professional development opportunities. Ryan Nesbit, head of Finance and Administration is overseeing a committee to address this issue, but committee members haven’t been chosen yet. Marie reached out to him to let him know the council is happy to help and said she would share information with the group when she gets it.

Marie reminded the group that the council needed to form a Nominating Committee for the April election of executive positions starting. Stuart Ivy and Savannah Hembree volunteered.

Melanie Crawford was elected by acclamation as the new staff council representative of the University Council Library Committee.

Debi Chandler provided the council with an update on the Staff Resource Fair taking place on March 11th. She explained that the resource fair is a chance for staff to gather to learn about units on campus that provide a service that staff can benefit from. There are over 51 units coming and the event will take place on the first day of Spring Break from 2pm-6pm in the Tate Grand Hall.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the event to help with table set up, and with staffing the Staff Council table from 2-6pm. During the event we need volunteers are needed to serve as “hosts,” to help with prize drawings, and other tasks. If anyone is interested in helping they should email Debi or Marie. Debi also mentioned that parking will free at the Tate Center.
Debi Chandler explained that she is also working on the Staff Council website and looked at switching from WordPress. The website has been updated a little and she plans on listing units first instead of individual names, so it is easier to find information. Debi also wants to add representative’s emails or phone numbers. She also wanted to add bios and said that photos are optional but strongly encouraged.

Ken agreed that the website is difficult to find because it doesn’t come up in search engine

Debi explained that some kind of error that occurred when the website was moved from the old server to the new server and they are working on fixing the error so the site does come up on a Google search.

**Old Business**

Michele Griffiths said that the Needs and Concerns committee was looking into the sliding scale parking rates issue that came up in a previous meeting and the committee would be meeting with United Campus Workers to discuss their proposals on this issue.

Laura Kelley asked for minutes from that meeting.

**New Business**

Matt Weeks mentioned that staff in his unit were complaining about people are smoking on campus and asked if other units had any strategies for enforcing the no smoking rules. A lively conversation ensued about who was responsible for enforcing the policy and Laura Kelley said she would try to research the policy. It was unclear if supervisors could write up employees, if the police should be called, or if it could be an EOO issue.

Debi, a higher up sends out recurring emails

Mary asked that if Matt to update the council if any progress has been made by the next meeting.

Ken asked if a list with Staff Council information could be sent to the group, including contact information for members and committee assignments. Mary said she would ask the Coordinator, Andrew, to send that out.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23pm.