Georgia State University Staff Council Annual Report: 2012-2013

The Staff Council continues its mission to serve all staff members of Georgia State University and provide a conduit for sharing concerns of the staff at large and a forum for the central administration to share information with the staff body, particularly during another difficult budget year for the university. Work continues to be done at the committee level; some committees had greater success reaching their goals.

Leadership
The executive council board consisted of council chair, Jowanna Tillman; vice chair, Charles Gilbreth; committees director, Susan Vogtner; staff relations director, Angela Go; and planning director, Amber Amari. The council met monthly to guide committees, select new committee chairs when warranted and plan the monthly Staff Council meetings. Chair J. Tillman focused on bringing speakers from Georgia State University President Mark Becker’s cabinet to open dialogue between the staff and university leadership.

Chair Tillman will move to the role of planning director for 2013-2014 council year to provide continuity.

Committee activities
Administrative Committee
Chair -- Kevin Chappell

- Bylaws were updated to include the changes made in 2011 and 2012
- Successful completion another round of elections

Communications
Chair -- John Medlock:

- Produced 10 Staff Spotlights (http://www.gsu.edu/staffcouncil/spotlight.html), featuring employees from throughout the university in a wide variety of roles. The spotlights were included on the Staff Council website and news blog, as well as linked to the monthly university employee e-newsletter.
- Published 99 posts on the Staff Council blog (http://gsustaffcouncil.wordpress.com/), highlighting a range of topics of importance to university staff. For example, blog entries focused on wellness programs, benefits updates, council activities, staff spotlights, and more. The blog has had over 3,000 visitors since its inception in late 2011.
- Updated the Staff Council information brochure for distribution at the 2011 Benefits and Employee Information event.
- Maintained the Staff Council website and made initial plans for converting the site to WordPress, the new university web content management system.

Community Relations
Chair -- Anita Webb

- Provided staffing support for Annual Benefits Fair and hosted Staff Council table
- Provided staffing support for GSU Community Day
- Provided staffing support for Fire and Safety Carnival

Staff Development and Advancement Committee
Chair -- Miriam Jackson

- Identify positions for FIRST-LINE management/supervisory training:
  This item was in collaboration with a group from the newly created Executive Leadership Academy for Women (ELAW). The ELAW group put together a framework and made recommendations that have been turned over to Staff Development committee and ODCS. The staff of ODCS is currently putting together training courses for this project. SDAC will be working with ODCS to identify courses and make recommendations. This will start out as a pilot program. A training committee will be established. Status: In-progress
- Staff Mentoring Program (In collaboration with Human Resources – Organizational Development & Consulting Services):
  This initiative carried over from last year. It encompasses the idea of looking at a persons’ career track and pairing them with someone at a higher level to acquire the knowledge and perhaps the skills needed to progress to the next level in their career. The new Director of ODCS established a mentoring program at Georgia Tech and had a lot of good ideas to bring the program here. A pilot program is being put together and spearheaded by ODCS. The SDAC committee will serve as Advisors. Status: In-progress
- Dissemination of Information:
  This topic was introduced due to some employees complaining about not obtaining information that pertained to staff (e.g., wellness initiatives, flex-time, training courses, etc.). This sub-sub committee will work with the Communications committee to find other ways for information to be disseminated to employees. Some avenues that were reviewed were denied. Status: on-going
Staff Recognition Committee  
Co-Chairs -- Harley G. Granville and Ednisha A. Riley

- Received 34 applications for the Fall 2012 Staff Scholarship and gave 12 awards amounting to $1,800.
- Received 19 applications for the Spring 2013 Staff Scholarship and gave 7 awards amounting to $1,600.
- Publicized the availability of scholarships to staff by the use of email blasts to all GSU staff as well as uploading electronic, full color information pages on PantherVision in each of the colleges, resulting in a marked increase in the number of applications received this year as opposed to previous years.
- Recommend increased funding of GSU Staff Scholarship Fund to accommodate increased demand.
- Secured a donation of 150 cupcakes from Carole Parks Catering and distributed them without charge at the GSU Staff Council Table during the GSU Employee Benefits Fair.

Sustainability Committee  
Chair -- Robert Crowder

- Designed and created a “caught green handed” initiative to recognize and reward members of the university community for recycling efforts.
- As one of the original campus groups in support of a smoke free university, the committee supports the new university ban on smoking on campus.

Work Life Committee  
Chair -- Chad Van Gordon

- Created a blog for the various GSU discounts available and working with the Communication Committee for posting info.
- Worked with Panther Perks in regards to assimilating information about discounts, incentives, rewards and wellness program.

Long Term goals:
- Investigate establishing free parking/transportation fees for staff, or at least charge staff members on a sliding scale based on income.
- Investigate implementing free use of recreation center by staff, or at the least charge staff members on a sliding scale based on income.
- Review and revise the Work-Life mission statement (ongoing)
- Advocate for free or reduced-cost summer camps for children of University Staff. This may be open to faculty and students if conducive.
- Advocate for maternity/paternity/domestic partner leave for all University employees.
- Advocate for increased affordable on-site daycare for children of University employees.
Staff Council Representatives:
Amber Amari
Deshod Amos
Regina Anderson
Shantay Bennett
Prenchelle Billue
Leslie Bishop
Colleen Blanchard
John Brittian
Jordan Cavallin*
Kevin Chappell
Ann Claycombe
Chris Connelley
Lindsay Cravotta
Robert Crowder
Leslie Currah*
Courtney DuBois
LaTanya Frierson
Angela Go
Adrienne Gonzalez
Harley Granville
Casey Heath
Lyshandra Holmes
Cynthia Holloway-Owens*
Cheryl Jester-George
Harvey Johnson
Pamela Lucas
Cynthia Martin
Nakisha McNeal
John Medlock
Kimberly Moore
Bryan Murray
Ladonna Pelt
Crystal Petway
Mike Raderstorf
Andrew Remington
Ednisha Riley
Ebony Rose
Gillian Ruland
Preeti Sagar
Lisa Shepard
Corrin Sorteberg
Amanda Stoll
Aileen Taylor
Chad Van Gordon
Susan Vogtner
Myisha Washington
Anita Webb
Alicia White
Rhonda Williams
Gary Wilson
Valerie Woods
Lisa Zanders
*added after start of year as replacement rep

Staff Senators:
Amber Amari
David Caudill
Kia Graves-Craddock
MaryAnne Gaunt
Charles Gilbreath
Miriam Jackson
John Medlock
Stephen Rosner
Jowanna Tillman