GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2012
Room 460/465, University Center


Excused: Cheryl Jester-George, John Medlock, Lisa Zanders.


Opening Business:
Jowanna Tillman called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Elections:
New staff council members were sworn in. Slate of officers for 2012-2013 nominated and elected unanimously.

Chair – Jowanna Tillman
Vice chair – Charles Gilbreath
Staff Relations Director -- Angela Go
Committees Director – Susan Vogtner
Planning Director – Amber Amari (continuing?)

Provost’s Report
Dr. Risa Palm, university provost, gave the council an update on the University’s strategic plan.
• Dr. Palm reviewed the goals of the plan, stating that the first goal was most important
- To become a national model for undergraduate education by demonstrating that students from all backgrounds can achieve academic and career success at high rates.
- To significantly strengthen and grow the base of distinctive graduate and professional programs that assure development of the next generation of researchers and societal leaders.
- To become a leading public research university addressing the most challenging issues of the 21st century
- To be a leader in understanding the complex challenges of cities and developing effective solutions.
- To achieve distinction in globalizing the University.

- The provost reported that university is beginning a new master space plan and a diversity strategic plan is underway. The new associate provost for faculty affairs will be responsible for this plan.
- Council members posed questions to the provost regarding plans for additional staffing, especially academic advisors, the progress of a student success center, as well as whether the new space plan would address changes to downtown and maintain historical integrity of the buildings in the Old Fourth Ward. Provost responded that new planning will take all of these issues into account.

**Staff Council Committee Selection**
Susan Vogtner explained SC committee selection process, explaining that all members must serve on committees and can select up to three choices. She handed out materials for that selection process.

**Staff Council Retreat**
The annual Staff Council Retreat is scheduled for May 11 at the Brookhaven facility. The retreat begins at 8:30 a.m. and will last all day.

**Training Presentation**
Deborah Coven Wilson and her staff spoke to us about the mentoring program. She indicated that they were planning a advising council and would like to recruit members from Staff Council.

**Talking Panthers Presentation**
Monique Boyce presented information on the Talking Panthers, GSU’s chapter of Toastmasters International, which is open to faculty, staff, and students. Details available at www.talkingpanthers.org.

**Senate Committee Update**
FACP has a proposal to create an Office of Sustainability. Will be put before FACP at April meeting.
Committee Reports
The university’s Employee Milestone Celebration is planned on April 6.

New member orientation immediately following March 21 meeting.