GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2012
Sinclair Suite, Student Center


Excused: Amber Amari, David Caudill, Charles Gilbreath, Pamela Lucas, Chad Van Gorden, Rhonda Williams.


Guests: Dr. James Weyhenmeyer, Deborah Covin Wilson

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

Minutes
Minutes from the March 21, 2012, meeting were approved with a correction in attendance.

Vice President of Research’s Report
Dr. James Weyhenmeyer, Vice President of Research for GSU, gave the council an update on the University’s strategic plan as it relates to research.

He stated that:
- GSU aspires to be a level of UCLA, University of Washington, etc.
- GSU is located in an excellent microenvironment for research
- Staff contribution just as important as faculty
- Last few years provided baseline data for future growth as 2009 was the highpoint in terms of awards ($64,000,000)
- Half of GSU research funding is from federal sources; GSU aspires to have 2/3 of research funding from federal sources. This is the gold standard.
- Goal is to substantially increase research dollars to $100,000,000
- Second Century Initiative provides means to reach goal by hiring 100 new faculty in key research areas during the next five years
- Staff support is crucial for GSU to reach $100,000,000 research dollar goal
- Research has a big impact on the state of Georgia

Dr. Weyhenmeyer opened the floor to questions and answers.

Q: How does CollabTech figure into plan?
A: Looking for ways to expand CollabTech as it a unique program, providing environment for incubating health and life sciences inventions.

Q: Is research addressing the quantity and quality of staff portion of research agenda?
A: Yes, research has issues with staff turnover and plans to combat by bringing back merit increases when possible and seeking other means to keep top staff. Sister institutions compete for our staff so we end up training future Emory and Georgia Tech staff.

Q: How are we increasing research among existing faculty?
A: Looking for ways to aid faculty in being competitive in the grant process. Also, seeking ways to bring back faculty who have opted out of research. Faculty must be educated to understand that the same amount work goes into applying for grants of all sizes so they will be encouraged to seek larger grants.

Q: With competition among faculty for research money, will undergraduate student education suffer?
A: No, opportunities for student participation in research enhances students’ education, especially at undergraduate level where research isn’t historically encouraged.

**Staff Council Retreat**
Retreat to be held May 11, 2012, at Brookhaven facility. Coach Curry was announced as keynote speaker. Teresa Ward will present methodology of staff survey.

**Staff Council Committee Selection**
Staff Council broke down into committees for initial planning meetings. Committee chairs were announced:

Staff Development – Miriam Jackson
Work-Life – Chad Van Gordon
Sustainability – Robert Crowder
Administration – Kevin Chappell
Community Relations – Anita Webb
Staff Recognition – Crystal Petway
Communications – John Medlock

Committee Reports
None