GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2012
Sinclair Suite, Student Center


Absent: Deshod Amos, Prenchelle Billue, Robert Crowder, Harley Granville, Casey Heath, Preeti Sagar, Aileen Taylor, Gary Wilson, Lisa Zanders

Guests: Tracy Hambrick, Cheryl Johnson Ransaw, Mike Zarem

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

Minutes
Minutes from the April 18, 2012, meeting were approved.

Committee reports
Admin Committee met.
J. Tillman recognized the work of the communication committee’s work on blog

GSU Recycling Office presentation
Tracy Hambrick with GSU recycling initiative presented.
She stated that
- GSU has a goal to collect 100% of campus recyclables - now have outlets for all items.
- Standardize bin locations on all floors and desk side cans in all offices.
- Dining hall recycling is underway but no there yet. Sodexo is on board. Dorm dining halls have work to do.
- Renovation and maintenance recycling is well underway- including recycling sawdust.
- Move out day in dorms has been a major issue but brought on Salvation Army etc. Recently donated 100 bins worth of clothing, etc. from residents.
T. Hambrick showed samples of bins and noted that cardboard recycling has been the hardest to implement as they are at loading docks, not in work spaces. J. Tillman asked for a location listing of all cardboard bins. T. Hambrick noted Coca-Cola machines have special can and bottle recycling bins at machines. She gave examples of non-recyclables for paper - sticky notes, paper with lots of glue or plastic, anything with food.

T. Hambrick noted that the recycling efforts have run into challenges including:
- limited size crew
- people not understanding what can and can't be recycled (example of paper towels from the Student Rec Center)
- people including trash with food in recycling bins

New initiatives:
- Goals to educate and inspire campus recycling.
- Implemented "caught in the act" recycling positive reinforcement.
- Game day recycling.
- Planning activities on American recycles day.
- Year round clothing donation drives
- Starting in SunTrust with a new trash/recycling program with trash, bottles and cans, and paper separated. This will go campus wide eventually.

One staff council member asked “Does GSU receive a financial benefit from recycling?“ T. Hambrick says, “Yes, any money raised goes back into the cost of recycling - say metals that can be recycled for money.” J. Tillman encouraged T. Hambrick to submit news items for the Staff council blog.

J. Tillman introduced Corrin Sorteberg and Mike Zarem, Communications Director for Teachers Retirement System of Georgia.

C. Sorteberg stated that contribution rates are increasing to 6% as of July 1 due to slower growth of assets over payouts. She noted investments are not doing as well as in the past. Over the past 25 years return on investment has been around 8% and we need for them to be 7.5%. However, in the past 10 years the ROI has been at 5% or less. By law, the contribution rates can't go above 6% and not below 5%. Likely to stay fixed at 6% for the next 6 - 7 years.

Susan Vogtner asked how is this news has been reported to employees. M. Zarem says they go through HR officers, press releases to newspaper, and of course on TRS website.

Charles Gilbreath asked about assumption of raises. M. Zarem noted that there is an unfunded liability rate and that this puts pressure to increase contribution rate. Question is the employer rate going to continue to rise. Yes, it will from 2014 to 2018. The rate is unknown because market changes are unknown.

C. Sorteberg encouraged all employees to access our yearly statement and look at goals for retirement and project the day you can retire. She promotes the fall seminars on retirement and
stated that 90 people retired on June 1. She also noted that if an employee has 60 days or more in sick leave, it counts towards retirement. Withdrawn service contributions can be bought back along with the sick leave! Interest rates for bought time are at 7% and will probably go up. She also noted that you can buy certain military service, must be in times of national emergency like Desert Storm. Reserve duty doesn't count. J. Tillman highly recommended that we look at our TRS website at least annually.

J. Tillman asked for any news business and hearing none, moved the meeting to be closed.