GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2013
Sinclair Suite, Student Center

Attending: Shantay Bennett, David Caudill, Kevin Chappell, MaryAnn Gaunt, Charles Gilbreath, Angela Go, Adrienne Gonzalez, Harley Granville, Kia Graves-Craddock, Miriam Jackson, Cheryl Jester-George, Harvey Johnson, Cynthia Martin, Nakisha McNeal, John Medlock, Kimberly Moore, Stephen Rosner, Jowanna Tillman, Susan Vogtner, Alicia White

Excused: Regina Anderson, Prenchelle Billue, Colleen Blanchard, Ann Claycombe, Leslie Currah, Courtney DuBois, La Tanya Frierson, David Remington, Ednisha Riley, Amanda Stoll, Rhonda Williams


Guests: Shahidah Abdulrahman, Dr. Mark Becker, Lindsay Green, Satina Knox

Opening Business
Chair Jowanna Tillman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes
Minutes from the November 14, 2012, meeting were approved.

General Business
Staff scholarships presented to seven employees. On hand to receive certificate included:
Lindsay Green
Shahidah Abdulrahman
Satina Knox

Remaining four recipients were not present.

Program
University President Dr. Mark Becker gave a Centennial Kick-off Presentation. He stated that the university’s centennial is significant because of our roots as an evening school of Ga. Tech, which focused on business, housed in a rented space, and targeted to downtown businessmen. One hundred years later, we have 32,000 students, are very diverse and offer degrees in the humanities, arts, law, health, science, etc. in addition to business. Dr. Becker noted kickoff events such as poet laureate Natasha Treathway.

Dr. Becker referred to centennial web site 100.gsu.edu for information on the centennial and events planned. He noted more than 1000 have registered for kickoff carnival. He also gave a
brief history of GSU highlighting our past as part of Ga. Tech and UGA, the admission of women and African-Americans, growth as research university, on-campus housing, football, and more.

Dr. Becker gave an update on the university since State of the University address, noting that the strategic plan is our roadmap – resulting the creation of the Honors College and acceptance of the first class of Honors College students, the creation of Student Success. He noted that this year 51% of students graduate in 6 years for the first time (previously 33%). Our goal is to get to 60% graduating in 6 years.

He announced academic innovations such as faculty have increased online education, faculty having conversations with students in Twitter and other medium to supplement classrooms.

Dr. Becker noted other experiments related to curriculum, particularly testing experimental degree programs. For example, the new Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree allows us to test the validity of new degrees before going through approval by the Board of Regents.

He announced that faculty are pursuing larger grants and teaming up to facilitate these grants.

International affairs identified five countries of focus: South Africa, Turkey, Brazil, China, and South Korea. We will concentrate on these because of existing relationships and their emerging importance in the world stage. We are also looking at a special summer school program to accommodate the schedules of students from these countries.

Dr. Becker noted areas that need more attention, particularly communication. He announced the new strategic plan for communications as being key, as well as the hiring of a new VP for Public Relations and Marketing Communication.

He reported on work of HR and facilities, noting that we are basically the size of a small city. Name changes include changing SunTrust tower to 25 Park Place and the Atlanta Life building to 100 Auburn Ave. He noted two upcoming naming events; General Classroom will become Langdale Hall and Freshman Hall to be Patton Hall.

Other campus changes include moving the Welcome Center to the first floor of 100 Auburn Avenue as it has more visitor parking. Honors College will move to the 2nd floor of 100 Auburn Avenue in Fall 2013. Administration will move to 100 Auburn later in 2013/2014. Dahlberg Hall will be converted to all student-focused offices, moving International Affairs there. The Student Center will handle reservable space.

Petit Science is full and we will break ground on a second building to the east of that building this year. The new building will be funded by money from the research done in PSC.

Dr. Becker reported that we also hope to break ground for a law school sometime in 2013. This building will be a mix of state funding and private funding. Private funding is in place and we hope for approval from the state this legislative session.
Dr. Becker mentioned the "bed tax" for the state portion of Medicare and Medicaid -- GSU did a budget cut because of this Medicare/Medicaid funding. As state entity, this tax will save us from additional budget cuts.

Q & A
A staff council rep asked how the bid for a new stadium would affect us.
Response: hope that GSU would play in that stadium. The CFO of the Falcons has an MBA from GSU. Not sure how it would affect our budget at this point.

What is the construction in front of G deck?
Response: Dr. Becker doesn’t know. Another rep said it is part of the power grid and additional infrastructure for potential expansion.

Dr. Becker added that Ramada Hotel on John Wesley Dobbs and Piedmont will be a private developer’s student housing not GSU foundation or GSU. Because of this new construction, we aren't planning to build more student housing in 2013, however, we are full at 4,000 plus beds.

The Panther Den will become Romeo's Pizza during the spring semester and Pizza Hut is opening a carryout facility nearby.

Will the 100 Auburn auditorium remain and will other groups be able to use?
Response: Yes. It is the size of Speaker's Auditorium and will be managed by Events and will be bookable. There is also a medium-size dining room for 50-70 that will also be available.

Are there plans to create more green space on campus?
Response: yes, we will communicate the possibility of creating more sense of campus.

Does Hurt Park belong to us?
Response: no, but in the past year we set an agreement with the City of Atlanta so that we can control the booking of events in Hurt Park. It's a rolling 30-90 day agreement that the city can cancel if they don't like what we do.

Asked about the strategic plan length
Response: it's a 10 year plan with a 5 year mid-point checkup to assess how far we've come.

Any renovations for One Park Place (especially with the water quality issues)?
Response: we working on it as it’s in perpetual need of care, communications will move to the 4th floor of 100 Auburn in two years.

What about the future of leasing 34 Peachtree?
Response: once we finish renovating 25 Park Place, we hope to end the lease on that building.

Asked how he envisions us becoming more digital getting rid of textbooks, library books, etc.
Response: migration will be a faculty adoption process, all digital universities and highly technological elementary schools (curriculum on iPads) will force the change, probably more
quickly than we suspect, maybe in five years. However, we must develop new ways to test this learning process and assess the students' learning.

**Committee Reports**

Administrative Committee -
Staff Council elections underway, taking nominations for both staff council representatives and senators. Rep site is up and we should have received the postmaster email. K. Chappell noted the open positions by district and encouraged people to nominate others and self nominate. If you nominate someone else, you must check with them for approval. Senate nominations are open for 4 vacancies and candidates can self nominate.

No other committee reports.

**Other business**

A staff council rep asked how we handled our request to speak to Dr. Becker about the RIFs. J. Tillman had not had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Becker yet.

J. Tillman asked for any news business and hearing none, moved the meeting to be closed at 4:07 p.m.