Staff Council
Meeting Minutes: April 17, 2013

- **Excused:** Shantay Bennett, Colleen Blanchard, Anne Claycombe, Robert Crowder, Cheryl Jester-George, Amanda Stoll, Aileen Taylor, Michael Wyatt
- **Absent:** Lindsey Cravotta, Courtney DuBois, Alicia White

**Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by council chair Chris Connelly. Chris welcomed members and special guests who were in attendance as part of the celebration of Staff Council that was a featured part of the meeting.

Planning Director Jowanna Tillman led a recognition of past chairs and founding members of the Staff Council. She thanked each for their service to Georgia State staff and the university as a whole and asked those in attendance to stand and be acknowledged by the group. Each honoree received a certificate and a commemorative university centennial pin.

**Speaker: Peter Lyons**

The council welcomed Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Peter Lyons as its featured speaker for the meeting. Dr. Lyons focused on the role of staff in the progress of the university. He acknowledged that many staff face the dilemma of having high levels of responsibility yet low levels of official authority. However, he cited examples of staff effecting change by asserting the authority that comes from their rich knowledge of university operations. The Staff Council holds considerable authority as well, he reminded the group, which members could use productively to further the organizations goals and to
enhance the functioning of the university.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Retreat Update

Connelly reminded the group about the council annual retreat, which will be held on Friday, May 17. The event will take the place of the May council meeting. An agenda will be distributed shortly before the retreat occurs.

Closing

There was no new business, so the meeting was adjourned.