

University System of Georgia Staff Council Annual Conference
University of North Georgia
October 2-3, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Columbus State University, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, University of North Georgia, Valdosta State University

Welcome:

Mr. Tim Aldridge, University of North Georgia-Staff Council Chair, welcomed Dr. Bonita Jacobs, President of University of North Georgia. Dr. Jacobs stated: "Don't sell yourself short...what we are all here for is the success of the students. It takes faculty and staff working together. Student retention is very broad, it's not just what happens in the classroom, we all support student success and graduation. Be passionate about your work and job. The agenda, Personal Growth & Leadership, is something we all struggle with. Many are sandwiched between generations and volunteer. Life balance is a big issue. It's important to carve out time for personal wellness. You need to stop and look at how you are spending your time."

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by the University System of Georgia Staff Council Chair, Ms. Geraldine (Gerri) Winns of Albany State University. This is a beautiful campus – thanks for having us – we appreciate Tim and everyone here for allowing the USG Staff Council to be here. Most of our communication is on the listserv – we need to communicate all the information. We want to get a chat box on the USG website so we can answer questions and make it more personal. Ms. Winns said "Staff makes it all happen; we are the stars. You can depend on staff; we are the glue, the cement." Now Ms. Debbie Chimeno, the USG Chair-Elect will give the Invocation.

Invocation

Ms. Debbie Chimeno, USG Chair-Elect, gave the invocation. She read a great little story "A Glass of Milk" and went on to stress that we affect the lives of every student. Stay strong, be a team, be encouraged.

Institutional Roll Call and Treasurer's Report

Ms. Yvonne Le Roy-Landers, USGSC Treasurer, asked all in attendance to ensure that all delegates and alternates sign the attendance sheet. The roll call was taken and the attendees were counted. The Treasurer's Report shows a current balance of \$4,285.82. All were in favor to approve the Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion.

Ms. Anita Johnson asked about the UGA donation to the USGSC – understood it was only for travel – not operational expenses. It is to help voting members of any institution to come. These requests need to be submitted to the Executive Board.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Geraldine Winns moved to approve the minutes, ? seconded.

There are several proposals that individuals would like to submit – we are preparing a form so you can submit a request to be on the agenda or to submit concerns to the Board of Regents. I have been asked to have the proper protocol in place. I'll get forms out to you before the end of the week. We have to look at what we as a total body appear to the BOR. There is a lot going on through the listserv – concerns and personal likes and dislikes. We are the USGSC – everything discussed is being monitored so we don't want to air dirty laundry. Some are using this as their personal playground, which is not professional, and it goes out to everyone. We need to be professional and put out on the listserv what is professional. The Chat Box mentioned before will go directly to the Executive Committee. Will send an email and get back with you. Please ask me a question and I will find out if I don't know.

A tabled discussion from the USGSC Valdosta Meeting in July was the request to move the quarterly meetings to Macon, which is a more central location for all. The Annual meeting would continue to be held at different campuses. The quarterly meetings should just be the business meeting and lunch – a half day. Right now all quarterly meetings require donations and door prizes. It gets expensive. For Staff Council all you need is a meeting room. Ms. Cassie from Georgia College said that they have a Grad Center in Macon that is available.

Annual Meetings:

2014 – Albany State University
2015 – Columbus State University
2016 – Southern Polytechnic University
2017 – Georgia Southern University
2018 – ABAC
2019 – Georgia College and State University
2020 – Kennesaw State University.

Kennesaw State – Mr. Ron – made a motion to have the quarterly meeting held at a site in Macon for business discussions only. Ms. Alberta Cook seconded it. Kennesaw said that we need to prove we're being good stewards – a day trip with no overnight, meals, etc. A central location makes sense.

Ms. Gerri Winns asked if there was any cost involved. Ms. Cassie said she would check with the Graduate Center. There may be a cost. Ms. Gerri asked Ms. Cassie to check and get back to her.

All voting delegates stood – All in favor of central location – 7 – All opposed – 5. Motion carried.

Ms. Gerri then brought up the business of the shirts. She had planned to have several today. She was wearing one. However, there was a problem with the logo, repetitiveness, and had to be redone.

Alberta mentioned that in Old Business there was mention of the listserv. This is supposed to be for all the current Chairs and Chair-Elects as well as all past offices of the USGSC. Some Chairs have opened it to all. Ms. Debbie has had requests for removing names.

Ms. Gerri mentioned that regarding the Chat Box, some want to go to the BOR directly. The BOR wants the requests to come to us because the BOR channels back to us. We have to have structure.

Vice Chancellor Marion Fedrick explained that she is the liaison for the Staff Council. In July we sure did promise a lot. We spoke about benefits. There are many significant changes and she handed out a handout to all. She explained that providers are coming to campuses to put on Benefits Fairs. Everyone has to go into the system and make changes. Dental will be Delta Direct and there will be two plans. In another year, USG will be tobacco free. It is really a big project. It will be a huge effort next year and will encompass the student population. Tobacco button will auto-fill yes. You have to go in and change this if you or your dependents are non-smokers. Contribution for HAS will be \$350/single and \$750/family. TSP – a couple proposals – may or may not get approved; it has to go to the Board.

The business meeting was adjourned following Ms. Marion Fedrick's presentation by President Geraldine Winns.