



STAFF COUNCIL

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

10:00 AM

Call to Order: Staff Council Chair, Brienne McDaniel, called the meeting to order at 10:01AM

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes from the last Staff Council meeting was made by Jason Ogletree and seconded by Ashley Travis. February 14, 2024 minutes were approved as written.

President's Office, Don Green:

The April 15-16th Board of Regents meeting hosted at Gordon State College went very well; it was Gordon's first time hosting in 30 years. A warning to all Faculty/Staff: current FAFSA enrollment is a bit of a mess; please be understanding of students experiencing difficulties and try to explain that this is not a GSC problem but a FAFSA-wide issue. Fast Forward, an accelerated online-only track for Business Management and Human Services, is up and running; be sure to mention it especially to your nontraditionally aged peers who never completed that degree. The Tuition Assistance Program is grossly underutilized by Faculty/Staff. Parapro to Teacher is doing very good and is on-track for 200 students by the Fall. Logistics and Service Industry Management tracks in the Business Management BS are coming in the Fall.

Treasurer Update:

Gemani Gaspardo has been voted as Staff Council Treasurer and will complete the rest of the term after Joy's resignation.

Strategic Plan Update, Teresa Betkowski:

This is the second update on the Strategic Plan, slated to cover 2024 through 2027. Thanks to help from AI and the committee and other contributions, Gordon State has a new mission statement: "Gordon State College strives to provide a nurturing learning environment where students can grow academically and personally, preparing them for success in life and positive contributions to regional workforce

needs.” Core values: Excellence, Student Success, Innovation, and Belonging.

Goal I: Strengthen efforts to attract, recruit & enroll students with different interests, skills, talents and needs. Goal II: Promote retention and student success through targeted retention efforts, supplemental instruction, and engagement initiatives. Goal III: Drive students toward degree completion, closely aligning programs with workforce needs. All goals have objectives and indicators that can be viewed in the full report. Committee members: Teresa Betkowski, Tonya Moore, Amanda Maynard, Ryran Traylor, Mary Monroe Smith, Sherlana Fryer, Kathryn Green, Kristi Hayes, and Cecil McDaniel. Additional contributors: Don Green Joanne Ardovini, Melissa Johnson, Jamie Petty, Britt Lifsey, Rhonda Toon, Peter Higgins and other faculty, staff, students, retirees, alumni, trustees and community partners.

Human Resources, Tonya Johnson and Creche Navarro:

New Hires: Larsen Hammond (Accounting Assistant/Bursar); Ben Scott (Director of Public Safety); Merri White (Assessment Coordinator).

Role Change/Addition: Katharine Whitelock (Testing Center Coordinator).

Farewells: Jeff Dean (Maintenance) and Bethany Watts (Admissions).

There are several full and part-time positions open currently (check website for full list).

2023-2024 ePerformance goals: last date to make any changes to goals is May 3, 2024. Contact Amy Anderson with questions.

Highlander Retiree Celebration April 25th.

Check out the Faculty & Staff Fitness Program facilitated by our own Coach Capers, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Anthem and Kaiser each have a well-being app to track for the \$100 and each plan includes Weight Watchers. Lunchtime Yoga with Kileen has one more session scheduled April 29th; reserve your mat.

Take a look at upcoming GOLD series webinars. Giving & Receiving Feedback 5/25, Self-Care Toolkit 6/20, and Respect in the Workplace 7/18. If you are interested in facilitating a GOLD series session or have a topic, contact Creche.

The Visual Arts exhibit is up in the Hightower Library.

Additionally, it has been confirmed that campus is moving to a Summer schedule May 20th through July 26th—Monday through Thursday working 9 hours and Friday only working 4. If the proposed COLA raise goes through, it would take effect July 1st and would be for 4% up to \$3000.

Enrollment & Marketing, Melissa Johnson:

1% more students this Spring than last. Fall is also on track to have a 25% increase in students (1040). The Dual Enrollment to Freshman celebration is April 30th. There are Highlander Nation days May 10th and 31st. Be understanding of FAFSA issues—hopefully those will be resolved. CPoS implementation on track for the Summer launch. CRM Transition will be happening; currently shopping for best value/cost

software. Keep your ears open for upcoming news regarding the Admissions team—perhaps mostly new faces in the Fall.

There is a branding refresh happening with “Forward Thinking” appearing on billboards and suchlike. Adults Forward (adult learners/nontrads) has been rebranded Fast Forward.

Finance and Administration, Stephanie Loveless:

4% COLA increase up to \$70K annually with a max of \$3000 was approved. The \$66m cut in FY24 was restored to FY25 budget—roughly \$123277. New enrollment funding a little over \$1m coming in from two years ago.

Priorities: replacement of one-time funds used in FY24 (Tuition Carry-forward funds and ERC funds) for around \$700,000. Funding of must-fund items including increased utility cost, annual maintenance fee increases, funding a new enrollment position, marketing investments and covering any unfunded COLA increases.

Academic Affairs, Lori Childers:

GSC has started some new Articulation Agreements. With GA Tech: AS-BS Engineering Dual Degree Program. East GA College: AA in Elementary Education to BS in Elementary/Special Education at GSC. University of W GA: AS in Criminal Justice (GSC) to BS in Criminology. Albany State University: GSC Undergraduate programs to Albany State Graduate programs as long as minimum requirements are met; waived application fee.

Commencement schedule is released—assistants must arrive by 6:45 AM. Students start arriving at 7:15 AM. Ceremony is at 8:30 AM. Brunch (RSVP coming) for Faculty/Staff 10 AM to noon.

Advancement, Natalie Rischbeiter:

A brief self-introduction by Natalie. A reminder to let Advancement know if any event or connection pops up that might be good for the college.

“Tell Me Something Good!”—

Jennifer Stutsman would like to thank everyone for making the Board of Regents Meeting successful.

Melissa Johnson would like to thank Jennifer Stutsman for her exemplary leadership during the BOR meeting.

Announcements, Brienne McDaniel:

If interested in starting (or taking over the scheduling of an existing) staff interest group, please get in contact.

Our anonymous suggestion form is LIVE!! See Staff Council page.

We have had two Trivia Lunches—winners Meagan Pearson and Merri White. First Friday of the month at noon in the Highlander Dining Hall; faculty/staff get \$5 food.

Locals please submit your charity of choice for consideration for partnership with Gordon Gives.

There are upcoming Summer camps for Soccer and STEAM—faculty/staff can get a \$10 discount for their children.

The Bookstore is looking for interested parties to assist with inventory, particularly retirees and alumni and the people of faculty and staff.

Adjournment:

Brienne McDaniel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ashley Travis moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy Anderson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amber Isbell