



STAFF COUNCIL

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

10:00 AM

Call to Order: Staff Council Chair, Brienne McDaniel, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes from the last Staff Council meeting was made by Ashley Travis and seconded by Jason Ogletree. June 25, 2024 minutes were approved as written.

Human Resources, Tonya Johnson & Creche Navarro:

New Hires: Jeanitta Bush (Admissions); Ashley Childs (Admissions); Chad Few (Football coach); Emilee Goodwin (Financial Aid); Mingo Henley (Advisor); Susan Hoffman (Alumni Affairs); Vicki Hyatt (Academic Affairs Coordinator); Cody McCrary (Assistant Baseball Coach); Daniel McDermitt (Director of Facilities); Chandler Schutz (Advisor); Gregory Schiefen (Basketball coach); Uzell Williams (Assistant Vice President for Finance & Admin/Controller).

Role Change/Addition: Joy Matthews (back full time as Finance & Admin Coordinator)

Coming Soon: Marie Barge (Public Safety Officer); Maggie Brooks (Records Assistant).

Farewells: Jody Alford (Public Safety); Kecia Bennett (Admissions); Ameche Jones (Admissions); Kandice Estrella (Center for Workforce Development); Natasha Gates (Center for Workforce Development).

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

All benefits-eligible faculty/staff who work at least 30 hours are able to use Wellbeing Release time for up to 60 minutes a week of health-related professional development time. Unless it is used for a GSC sponsored program, it cannot be used to shorten your workday and it is NOT to be used in lieu of sick or vacation leave; it is not documented on timesheets and cannot be made up or accrued. An approved application must be on file with HR for each fiscal year.

Check out financial wellness resources: Virtual coaching with CAPTRUST, Corebridge, Fidelity & TIAA. There are on-campus advising opportunities available during the Benefits Fair (OCT 28) and Corebridge will be doing 1-on-1 meetings OCT 29. CAPTRUST will be doing in person 1-on-1 meetings in Spring 2025.

Upcoming Money Monday Webinars: Planning to Retire (9/30); HAS Bank Investment Program (10/14); Estate Planning, Wills & Trusts (10/28); Deeper Look at Target Date Funds (11/11); What to do with Old Retirement Accounts (11/25); What Makes You, You (12/9).

MetLife Benefits: TO ALL BENEFITED EMPLOYEES—Online will preparation; travel assistance; funeral discount & planning services; grief counseling. WITH SUPPLEMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE—1-on-1 Will Preparation; Estate Resolution Services.

Walktober coming up in October! Highlander Hike on OCT 26 at Sprewell Bluff in Thomaston at 9.45AM. Yoga with Kileen Chair Yoga Fridays 11:00-11:45AM. Faculty/Staff Fitness Program with Coach Capers Mondays & Wednesdays 5:00-6:00PM. Diabetes Management Support Group next meeting OCT 1.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD: 10/28—11/6

Enrollment Services & Marketing, Melissa Johnson:

Recruitment: 153 HS Visits/Events; 24 GSC Campus visits; 33% increase over FA23 cycle. Dual enrollment 20+ DE Sessions/orientations; 25 scholarships and 86 commitments. Financial Aid has done 15 fairs/presentations and campus events. 2.5% increase in FA packages.

Semester over Semester comparison: 102% to overall goal (because we're up on retention!); 2.5% Increase over FA23.

Upcoming: Increase community events, classroom presentations, expanded Scholarship Saturday. There will be new technology rolled out in Admissions soon that may make its way into other departments. Marketing is planning a website redesign/refresh, so they may be contacting people soon in regards to that. More FAFSA changes to come DEC 1.

Marketing is being very intentional with their "Highlanders Forward" related branding. Also, Marketing is working on an internal communication newsletter.

Important Dates: Principles' Roundtable 10/23; National Transfer Student Week 10/21-25; Fall Preview Day 11/2; No Fee November 11/1-30; Scholarship Day TBD Jan 2025; Spring Preview Day TBD March 2025; DE-FR Celebration TBD April 2025.

Finance and Administration, Jamie Petty:

Budget hearing in Jan; paperwork due NOV 1.

If we can make enrollment stay up, budget should increase.

FACILITIES, Daniel McDermitt:

Maintenance money has been obtained from the USG (Small cap \$3.17 mill; MRR funds) to be used to fix various HVAC related issues (air handlers, boilers, controllers) around campus, including Russel, Fine Arts, IC, and Nursing building.

Please be understanding if these projects impact working in certain areas.

Also, facilities is currently interviewing for empty positions!

Academic Affairs, Dr. Ardovini:

Currently being shared with Clayton State; while Dr. A will not be on campus during her shared days, she should be reachable via text/email promptly.

Tracks are now concentrations—which do not require as much approval as majors. Associates degrees will be referred to as pathways into. New concentrations are here: Logistics and Service Industry Management tracks in the Business Management (Fall). Concentrations are more free to pull from various departments. Also Dr. A has proposed a State College level consortium to replace eMajor program (which is very expensive) which would leave us as the student's home school but allow them to take courses at other schools. Interests are used as equivalents similar to the concept of "pre-med or pre-law."

The Honors Program has also been slightly revamped so that Junior students can apply to take 9-12 credits at the consortium's masters programs at GSC tuition rate during their Senior year (Honors to Masters). Traditional path with extra work still available. Also can use Undergraduate Research, studies Abroad and new Debate Team as part of the path.

BOR approved Respiratory Therapy.

Education class is the largest class ever!

SSC fully staffed with 6 ½ advisors (1/2 counts for Katherine who deals with particular at-risk student populations). SSC advises during the first 2 years; faculty advisors take over after.

Call for Dance team participants (proceeds to Boys & Girls club).

Advancement & Alumni Affairs, Meagan Williams:

10/1-deadline for students to apply to Spring Foundation scholarships

10/7-Faculty/Staff giving Campaign kick off. There is a reception beginning 8:30am in Highlander Room.

11/2-Alumni Tailgate. 2:00pm at Lamar Trojan Field. Tickets \$15/person.

11/14-Graduate Toast with New Honors Event. IC 4th floor at 6:00pm.

11/17-Christmas Carol stage reading

12/3-Day of Giving

2/1/2025-Heart for Gordon Gala. Faculty/staff tickets \$75.

President's Office, Don Green:

Recruitment: enrollment up, but first time freshmen down

Retention: up 4%

Graduation: Spr/Su graduates up 13%

Resident retention up 4.4%! Started doing background checks and resident student training. 2 years ago: 8 police actions in first month; this year: only 3 police actions in the first month.

Investiture coming JAN 31.

Treasurer's Report:

Gordon Gives: \$2,145.11

Staff Development: Awarded \$10,267; Remaining \$8,567; Utilized \$1,700

"Tell Me Something Good!"—

Advancement just helped Library secure a \$5000 grant for their laptop lending program.

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.

New Staff Council Meeting dates posted.

Trivia lunch back tentatively 10/4.

Submit your pet photos for the next Pets of Gordon Calendar!

Adjournment:

Brienne McDaniel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ashley Travis moved to adjourn the meeting. Amber Isbell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amber Isbell