

University System of Georgia Staff Council Annual Conference
Albany State University
October 1-2, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Albany State University, East Georgia State College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Regents University, Georgia Southern University, Kennesaw State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, University of Georgia, University of North Georgia, University of West Georgia and Valdosta State University

Welcome and Call to Order:

This meeting will come to order. Madame Secretary, the time is 1:10 p.m. on October 1st, 2014. Welcome to the 20th Annual USG Staff Council Conference. First of all, a heart-felt THANK YOU to the Albany State Staff Council and the many individuals that had a part in hosting this event. This Conference would not have been possible without their help, support, sweat, long hours, meetings, the phone calls and misunderstandings that go along with the preparation for any large event. Ms. Gerri Winns, congratulations for putting all this together for us. STARS...yes, we are all STARS. Thank you Mr. Clifford Porter for your warm welcome to Ram Country! To the Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett, thank you for sharing a part of you with us.

My name is Debbie Chimeno from Kennesaw State University and this year I am your Chair. I would like to introduce to you your Executive committee. When I call your name, please stand and be recognized. Mr. Tim Aldridge from the University of North Georgia is your Chair-Elect. Ms. Pattie Beblowski from Georgia Southern University is your Secretary, Ms. Yvonne Leroy-Landers from Valdosta State University is your Treasurer and Ms. Gerri Winns from Albany State University is your Past Chair. Albany State is blessed with another Past Chair, Ms. Kim Douglas. Thank you all for your dedication and support.

We are five different people from five different USG institutions, with five different opinions. But, we have a common goal, which is YOU, the staff of 31, soon to be 30, USG Institutions!. We are proud to represent you! At this time, I would like to invite Mr. Tim Aldridge to lead us in our invocation. Tim...

Invocation:

Albany State used the acronym STARS to highlight the importance of what the staff means to the University System of Georgia. The staff at our universities touch the lives of students every day. From the custodian who cleans the buildings to the groundskeeper who beautifies the campus to the advisor who tries to guide the student with smart choices about their schedule so they can graduate in 4 years. We all have a job and that job is important to the success of each university. So, as we learn about STARS and what "staff ready and trained to serve" really means, I would like to read a bible verse. In Genesis 1:16, we read that God made two great lights; the

greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. So, as we celebrate what stars our staff really are, let's remember who created the moon and stars.

Institutional Roll Call and Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Yvonne Leroy-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 beginning balance as of 7/1/14 is \$3,844.27, currently the is \$4,169.27. Yvonne also mentioned that she posted the dues form on the USGSC website. This form also asked for the voting member and alternate, which we need when there is a vote. Pattie Beblowski of Georgia Southern motioned to accept and Kendria Lee of Georgia Southern seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Pattie Beblowski distributed copies of the minutes and asked for any corrections/modifications. Yvonne Leroy-Landers of Valdosta State made a motion to approve the minutes as stated and Romelda Simmons of Ft. Valley seconded the motion

Current Business:

Thank you Ms. Pattie. On July 9th, I handed out a survey to those representatives that attended our quarterly meeting in Macon. This survey was also attached to an email sent to all on the ListServ. I wanted to know how the institutions felt about our TAP benefits, on-line courses and bereavement paid time off. I want to thank all of you at this time for sharing your thoughts, your feelings and your desires about these benefits. Some of the USG Institutions said that, for years, they have been trying to get family TAP benefits. They responded very honestly and this is exactly what I wanted to hear. It did my heart good to know that a small institution like College of Coastal Georgia sent out surveys to 250 of their staff and received 101 responses back! As your representative to the BOR, I sent an email to Vice Chancellor Marion Fedrick, concerning the TAP benefit only, asking to present this benefit to the Board of Regents on our behalf. I am hoping that the Vice Chancellor will have some good news for us soon.

Welcome to our newest Staff Council members from Georgia Institute of Technology! They are represented by Mr. Dwayne Palmer and Ms. Christine Steward. Welcome to the USG Staff Council!

Campus Reports/Activities:

Within the Staff Council, we have the Public Relations Committee, the Bylaws Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Annual Conference Committee. Will the Chairs please report.

The Public Relations Committee consists of Pattie Beblowski and Kendria Lee of Georgia Southern, Marie Mize of the University of Georgia and Alberta Cook of Southern Polytechnic. We have been trying to reach out to all the institutions, asking whether they would be attending the conference, what initiatives they are working on and what they would like to see in future conferences. We will continue in this endeavor.

The Bylaws Committee is chaired by Tim Aldridge of the University of North Georgia.

The Nominating Committee

The Annual Conference Committee is chaired by Ms. Gerri Wins of Albany State. Gerri wanted to thank the Albany State Staff Council and all on her committee who worked so hard to make the conference the success it is. Thank you all!

New Business:

Upcoming USG Staff Council meeting will be held in Macon on February 11th. At this meeting, topics to be discussed:

ListServ-there are so many who have complained about receiving so many messages? Currently, there are approximately 179 subscribers. Discussion will be who remains on the ListServ. I would like to propose to the Council that only the current Chair and Chair-Elect of each institution, the current USG Executive Committee and all past chairs remain on the ListServ. The ListServ will be used for meeting notifications, minutes and all business-related items only.

I would like to propose having a Facebook and/or Twitter account for the USG Staff Council. This way all staff can keep in touch, ask questions, share ideas, ask for help, etc.

We are continuing to have our quarterly meetings in Macon. The Staff Council voted last year 7-5 to move the quarterly meetings to Macon, which is a central location for all to meet, instead of travelling to the institutions. However, there is a \$150.00 room charge per meeting with no refreshments. This would be a cost of \$450.00 per year to the council that will come out of the \$25.00 dues that we charge each year (18 institutions per year).

Have an on-line webinar for each meeting so those who cannot attend, can at least participate via a webinar. Discussion is needed to ensure that the voting delegate is really the voting delegate! Possibly a special password given?

All staff are encouraged to attend our meetings. Remember, Communication is the "Key to Success" and success begins with YOU!

Future Conferences:

- 2015-Columbus State University
- 2016-Southern Polytechnic & Kennesaw State University
- 2017-Georgia Southern University
- 2018-Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- 2019-Georgia College and State University
- 2020-Fort Valley State University

