

University System of Georgia Staff Council Meeting
February 10, 2016

Representatives in attendance: Albany State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Gordon State College, Kennesaw State University, University of Georgia, University of North Georgia, University of West Georgia

In attendance via web: Alberta Cook – Kennesaw State University – Marietta Campus, Elsie Ridley – Fort Valley, Heidi Benford – Clayton State University, Linda Means – Albany State University, Yolanda Surrency – Fort Valley State University, Debbie Dorsey – Georgia Institute of Technology, Pattie Beblowski – Georgia Southern University

- **Opening of Meeting – Tim Aldridge**
- **Treasury Report – Erin Brannon**

Treasurer's Report attached

- **Approval of Minutes for October Business meeting – Marie Mize**

Copies of the minutes were provided to the group. The minutes were approved.

- **Update of 2016 USGSC Conference at KSU's Marietta campus – Alberta Cook**

Due to audio problems Ms. Cook was not able to address the Staff Council. Kathy Rechsteiner from Kennesaw State University shared the following information concerning the conference. The USG Staff Council Conference will be held on Oct. 6th & 7th at the Kennesaw State University - Marietta Campus. The host hotel will be DoubleTree by Hilton, Atlanta-Marietta at 2055 South Park Place, Atlanta, GA 30339-2014. KSU will be setting up the link for reservations. The hotel conference cost will be \$95.00 for a double per night with 2 free breakfasts in the hotel restaurant. There will be a shuttle to provide transportation from the hotel to the KSU-Marietta campus. More information on agenda and schedule will be coming out soon.

DoubleTree Hotel brochure attached.

- **Discussion of Proposals of USGSC Bylaw changes - Deborah Chimeno**

Deborah Chimeno led a discussion on the proposed changes. Attached is a copy of the current bylaws and the suggested changes. A proposal was made to take the suggestions from today's

meeting back to the by-laws committee and present the proposed changes again to the group at a later meeting.

Current By-laws and Proposed By-laws are attached.

- **Call for New Officers – Elections Committee – Marie Mize**

A list of offices open for election was distributed to the group. Those offices include Chair – Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. A nomination form was also made available to the group. Ms. Mize encouraged everyone to consider nominating themselves for an office. Becoming a part of the executive committee is the best way to get involved and make a difference. A copy of both the list of offices and the nomination form are attached.

- **Update from PR Committee – Changes to USGSC Website – Erin Brannon**

Ms. Brannon stated that the website is out of date but that changes are being made. Keith Warburg from Valdosta State was appointed webmaster. He has already updated some information and has additional items to put on the site. Tim, Erin, and Alberta met with a representative from the Board of Regents to discuss the new web program that the BOR is implementing. The BOR is migrating to a new content management system. They are planning on migrating to the new site in March. So we are trying to update as much as possible before then. She stated that we don't know how the site will look. If you have thoughts or ideas that you think would be beneficial to site please contact Erin. Suggestions from the group included the addition of a calendar, photos, and updates from individual intuitions.

- **Update of USGSC Top 4 Concerns – Tim Aldridge**

Mr. Aldridge listed the Top 4 concerns for 2015-2016. They are 1) Staff Raises, 2) Professional Development, 3) Tap for Online Classes, and Controlling Health Care Cost. Mr. Aldridge stated that an email was sent to every institution to gather information about how proposed changes to TAP would affect their institutions. Proposed changes would include extending TAP benefits to cover full tuition cost of online classes and to extend TAP to cover current Executive and Professional programs. Mr. Aldridge stated that as soon as he has any further information he will relay that information to the group.

Debbie Chimeno mentioned that Mr. Aldridge met with the Retiree Council.

- **Discussion of Business meeting at the 2015 Conference – Tim Aldridge**

Mr. Aldridge discussed feedback from the Columbus Conference.

- a) At the conference the business meeting was 1 ½ hours. Some attendees felt that the business meeting was too long.
- b) Some attendees felt that two days was too long. There was a discussion as to whether a one day conference is worth the time. A comment was made that two overnight stay was too

long. General agreement was for a conference to start around noon and require one night stay would be optimal. Kathy mentioned that KSU is considering late start and one night stay.

Mr. Aldridge opened the floor to discussion. The group discussed the Education Support Leave. This leave gives employees eight hours of paid leave per calendar year to attend parent/teacher conferences, participate in classroom activities, and more. For more information go to: http://www.usg.edu/hr/manual/education_support_leave

- **Close of Meeting – Tim Aldridge**