

**Gordon State College  
Staff Council  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2014  
Student Center Auditorium**

**Call to Order & Approval of Minutes:**

Staff Council President Justin White called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He inquired of the staff present if any revisions or additions were needed for the Staff Council minutes dated June 10, 2014. None were suggested; a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes dated June 10, 2014.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Lamar Co. Backpack Program / Helping Hands:** - Kiana Battle / Sharon Manley

Kiana Battle and Sharon Manley gave an update to the Lamar Co. Backpack / Helping Hands Program that Gordon Gives funds are donated in support of each year. This program is made possible by donations from local churches and Gordon State College and is used to help those students in Lamar County schools, grades K-12, who are identified as in need of extra support for food, hygiene, and other items as indicated by teachers, counselors and other school personnel. Students are discreetly given bags of non-perishable food items and/or hygiene products that are placed in their backpacks to take home over weekends and long holidays. Food items include snacks, canned goods, instant grits, cereals and more. Hygiene items are also included such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, especially for the older middle- and high-school students. All proceeds collected are used to purchase items that directly benefit the students who have been identified for the program.

Ms. Battle and Ms. Manley also reminded us of their slogan, "We give food because kids can't think without it," and stated that the students who are served by this program begin with them (Lamar Co schools) but end / begin again with Gordon State College. Our support of this program benefits the students today and Gordon tomorrow as these students become our students. The Lamar Co Backpack / Helping Hands Program presented Gordon State College a certificate of appreciation for our continued support as we presented them with a check for \$500.

The Staff Council not only supports this program with monetary donations from the Gordon Gives initiative, but we would also like to support the program by collecting items that can be kept at the local school and given to students on an "as needed" basis. Please see the attached flier of items we would like to collect. Donation box sites are listed on the flier, or if you would prefer to give a monetary donation, we will gladly accept it and forward it to the program. Thank you for your continued support of this very important program.

**Service Awards:** - Dr. Burns, Justin White and Nicole Williams

The following staff members were recognized for their services to Gordon State College:

- **5 Years:** Deborah Christian, Ben Ferguson, Robert Griffin, Kevin Harpe, Kristi Hayes, Robert McCard, and Tabitha Smith
- **10 Years:** Delores Bell, Nathan Bell, Timothy Hargrove, Dontavious Hunter, Sharon Lloyd, Carol Morgan, Nicole Williams
- **15 Years:** Connie Wade
- **20 Years:** Shirley Meeks Vivian Shannon
- **25 Years:** Johnny Howell

Thank you so much for everything you do to make Gordon State College a wonderful place to be!

**Community Education** – Debbie Christian, Program Coordinator, Community Education

Debbie Christian gave an update to the current fall course offerings from the Community Education department. There are many wonderful personal enrichment courses being offered, courses from Ed2Go for work advancement/training, and a new OSHA training course for businesses than can be taught here or on site at a specific business location by request. The Community Education department has also moved to a NEW location – which is beside their old location! Please join Community Education for an Open House on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 pm at 404 Spencer Street. We hope to see you there!

**Military Memorial Update:** Rhonda Toon, VP Institutional Advancement

Rhonda Toon provided an update to the Military Memorial project – the site for the memorial has been moved due to the new construction and will now be located between Lambdin Hall and Hightower Library. The dedication for the memorial will be held April 18, 2015 during Alumni Week. We hope you will be able to attend the dedication ceremony.

**Campus Campaign Update:** Natalie Rischbieter, Alumni Affairs

Natalie Rischbieter provided a slideshow update to the Campus Campaign highlighting two Gordon State College students who benefit from scholarships provided by the Campus Campaign fundraiser. Many of our students would not be able to attend Gordon State College if it were not for the scholarships and monetary assistance they receive through Gordon State College Foundation fund scholarships that are supported by the Campus Campaign. Natalie reports that, to date, we have \$16,769 in pledges, which is well on our way to the \$23,000 goal for this year. The Campus Campaign runs through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please thoughtfully consider making a donation to this very worthwhile cause.

**New Hires** – Tonya Johnson, Director of Human Resources

Tonya Johnson introduced the following people who are new hires to Gordon State College since our last meeting:

- Richard (Brad) Almand      Recreation Coordinator
- Robin Butler                Resident Director
- Jordan Cavallin             Coordinator
- Martellis Curtis            Academic Advisor
- Linda Foster                Custodian I
- Sonya Gaither              Director of Library / Professor
- Wendy Giere-Frye         Academic Services Assistant
- Melonie Goodwin         Custodian I
- Jose' Gutierrez            Custodian I
- Hillary Hudgins            Admissions Counselor
- Kirsten Joyner             System Support Specialist
- George Little              Police Officer
- Derric Pearson             Police Officer
- Willie Protor               Grounds Maintenance Tech
- Tony Whidby                Custodian III

Please welcome our newest members to the Gordon State College family!

**Treasure Report Update** - Jackie Lovejoy, Staff Council Treasurer

Jackie Lovejoy, Staff Council Treasurer, reports –

Gordon Gives Funds:

- Beginning of year balance:                \$ 817.67
- Gordon Gives collected from Blue Jean Days:    \$ 911.00
- Donation to Lamar Co. Backpack Program:        (500.00)
- Current Balance:                                **\$1,228.67**

Staff Development Funds:

- Beginning balance: \$10,000.00
- Funds used so far this year: 913.00
- Current Balance **\$9,087.00**

Justin White, Staff Council president, reminded us that the cap for Staff Development funds has been raised to \$600 per person. Also, if we run out of Staff Development funds, there is another fund available for use on an as needed basis to benefit staff development initiatives. If there is a class, workshop, seminar, or other opportunity that would assist you in your position at Gordon State College, please speak to your supervisor concerning the type of training you would like to attend and contact Justin White to discuss the use of Staff Development funds.

**Tell Me Something Good!** ~ Nicole Williams, Staff Council Vice-President

The following submissions were given to Nicole for the “Tell Me Something Good!” segment:

- Dr. Melinda Hawley expressed appreciation to Daniel McKinley and Richard Vereen for assisting her in the delivery and return of her new and old office keys over the summer semester during “non-office” hours.
- Hillary Hudgins acknowledged Ben Ferguson and the Admissions Office personnel for making her feel welcome as a new member of the department.
- Congratulations to Jackie Lovejoy for being the first Gordon State College employee who applied to the newest Bachelor’s Degree program being offered at Gordon, furthering her education and being a role model to others!

Thank you all for your contributions that make Gordon State College a wonderful place to be!

**Suggestion Box:** Nicole Williams, Staff Council Vice-President

Nicole Williams reminded us that there are now two (2) Suggestion Boxes available: the one we have always had outside the Mailroom and another that is located in Facilities. Nicole collects all suggestions, logs them, and then follows up on the suggestion with the appropriate department or office. There are currently no updates to report from the Suggestion Box.

Suggestion Box forms can also be sent to Nicole through interoffice mail or email. All suggestions are kept confidential; we ask for your contact information for clarification purposes if needed and Nicole is the only person who has access to the names of those who submit suggestions.

**“I Heard it Through the Grapevine!”:** Justin White, Staff Council President

Q: What is the parking situation expected to be like after the new construction is completed?

A: Lee Fruitticher, VP of Finance and Administration – We lost 244 spaces due to the new construction, with 60 of those spaces coming from faculty/staff parking. Spaces were created for faculty/staff parking with 30 spaces in the commuter lot and 30 spaces in the Fine Arts student parking lot. There are also 32 spaces available for faculty/staff at the Fine Arts building. No new parking is available at this time. Mr. Fruitticher is working with President Burns, Public Safety, the construction company, architects and engineers to look into the possibility of creating additional parking on campus. You will be updated with any news concerning this matter as it is made available.

**Final Comments:** Justin White, Staff Council President

Justin White, Staff Council President, reminded all present that there is now a Staff Council section in the *GSCconnect* newsletter. If you have news, events, or other information you would like to share from your department, please send it to Justin through the *GSCconnect* email: [connect@gordonstate.edu](mailto:connect@gordonstate.edu). He will include it in the next publication of *GSCconnect*.

Justin motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded.

**The meeting concluded at approximately 9:48 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Parks  
Staff Council Secretary