

**Gordon College  
Staff Council  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2012  
Student Center Auditorium**

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

Staff Council President Todd Davis called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Todd Davis asked the staff if there were any revisions/additions that needed to be made to the minutes from the previous Staff Council meeting on March 28, 2012 and there were none. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approved minutes.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Nominating committee will get together and discuss the replacement of Staff Council secretary Beverly Dyche, who left in May to take a job at North Georgia College and State University.

Tonya Johnson recognized new employees hired since our last meeting:

Laura Bowen – Director, Counseling Services

Rebecca Macomber – Academic Aide, Library

Laura Parks – Transcript Evaluator, Registrars' Office

Autumn Schaffer – IT Professional, Computer Services

Tobias Walker – Custodian I

Tonya also announced that 21 youth from within the community have been employed to work around campus during the summer in various departments.

Lee Fruitticher updated the Staff Council on the 2013 budget which was completed in April. The Board of Regents has since approved the FY13 budget.

Included in the budget was an increase in the number of academic advisors in the Student Center. Move testing from Admissions to SC testing area. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning was created. This will encourage different approaches to instruction and delivery of courses. Nine (9) new faculty positions were also added to FY13 budget.

Projects on campus: New IC furniture, IC classroom desks, new faculty offices in MNS; new Coffee bar and tables/chairs added to IC lobby on bottom floor.

Working on \$3M expansion of dining facility, adding 350 to 600 seats. Should be completed in January, 2013.

Question was asked to Lee about the library renovation. He replied the request for \$5M Small Capitalized projects was submitted on July 9, 2012. Awards for these projects will be announced at the August Board of Regents meeting.

Ed Wheeler provided an academic update by first thanking the staff for the job they do and the environment they create for our students. He also presented more information on Complete College Georgia as implemented at Gordon College. Dr. Wheeler reminded the staff we are in the midst of a paradigm change on our campus. In the past, our model was similar to the following approach: Bring huge numbers of new students each year and don't worry when many of them don't come back because there will be a new wave next year.

Our present model follows a different approach: Let's bring in fewer but stronger students ... and yes we must keep them for next year and the next and the next. There are three reasons for this new model -

- It is the right thing to do
- The University System of Georgia says we must do it
- Our jobs depend upon it

To help, we are hiring two additional academic advisors while the Student Affairs staff is seeking additional training in serving military students and adult students.

When trying to retain students and move them forward, there are a lot of variables we do not control but we can control two things - The quality of the academic experience of the students (Dr. Wheeler's priority) along with the quality of life in the community that exists on this campus. He thanked the staff again for the welcoming community they build for our students.

In closing, Dr. Wheeler spoke about two baccalaureate programs. He stated we now have a faculty member hired and we will launch a new four-year degree in January – a degree in Health Services and Informatics Administration – the business side of the health industry. In addition, they have jumped their first hurdle in efforts to launch a Human Services degree on our campus. Other obstacles may arise but progress is being made. He mentioned both of those degrees because they might have interest to an adult with some college looking for a baccalaureate degree to complete. That adult might be a staff member or someone in our friendship circle.

Dr. Dennis Chamberlain reminded staff about housing on campus for the upcoming academic year and encouraged all staff that have contact with students or potential students to have them consider living on campus. There are definite benefits for those who live in housing which include safety, convenience, cost, utilities, and food. With the current housing changes, Dr. Chamberlain stated he is seeing discipline problems go down and believes it has created an overall better environment for everyone.

Staff Council Treasurer Cindy McCard reported that thirteen book reimbursements, eleven staff conference registrations, one Public Safety certification, one graduate level testing for Admissions and a class schedule had been paid out for a grand total of \$7600.95 in expenditures.

She also reported that our three campus Jeans Days had collected a total of \$699.00 for the Gordon Gives program. Staff Council President Davis said there will be more opportunities in the future to contribute to the Jeans Day campaign. These funds will be used for the Lamar County Backpack Program and Relay for Life.

In addition, Staff Council President Todd Davis reminded everyone about the Suggestion Box and said to remember some of these suggestions are at the supervisor level and should be discussed within their own departments.

President Burns commented on the Gordon Naming survey, path of the Strategic Planning, F/S Compensation Review and encouraged College/Community involvement.

“Tell Me Something Good” concluded the meeting and Todd Davis recognized the following people who were nominated for this recognition:

- Betty Carper, MNS
- Dr. Wheeler, tutoring Math/Science
- Brenda Blackstock, 33 years of service
- Tonya Johnson, HR, handling tough situations with grace
- Custodial Staff for their hard work on campus which included painting dorms
- Linda Littiken, Mailroom
- Trent Johnston, celebrity on ABC News with Barbara Walters
- Athletic Department - Basketball, Baseball and Women’s’ Softball for making it to their respective national championship tournaments
- Public Safety - Lt. Head, Sgt. Ray, Officer Thurmond, and Officer Gray for assisting with a disgruntled student on campus
- Business Affairs – Lee Fruitticher and the Business Office for always keeping a solid financial plan for the college in place

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.