

\*\*\*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\*\*\*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

November 2, 2004

1.0 Call to Order

President Kittrell called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

The following members were present:

Robin Barnett, Beth Bosarge, Steve Coleman, Kameron Dale, Tommy Dye, Carol Dunaway, Wynde Fitts, Diane Green, Keri Hensarling, Myra Herndon-Wade, Valerie Horne, Susan King, Virginia Kittrell, Karen Lott, Bob Lowe, Stephen Rey, Billy Sanders, Ray Scott, Ratonia Shaw, Toni Stringer, Mary Butler Sumrall, Mary Virgil, Vicki Watkins, Trisha Wilbanks, and Hitomi Wince.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3.0 Call for Proxies

The following members were represented by proxy:

Trisha Wilbanks for Kalin Butirich, Vicki Watkins for Michelle Fleming, Eric Hatcher for Pam Posey, Brad Sumrall for Frances Sudduth, Stephen Rey for Stacy Ready, Bob Lowe for Kim Busche, Toni Stringer for Beverly McNeese, Karen Lott for Susan Blackwell, Ratonia Shaw for Donna Donegan, Virginia Kittrell for Ray Stevens.

The following members were absent without proxy:

Kady Beaoui, David Byrd

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 August Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the August regular meeting were approved.

4.2 September Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the September regular meeting were approved.

4.3 October Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the October regular meeting were approved.

## 5.0 Officers' Reports

### 5.1 President's Report – Virginia Kittrell – Cabinet – October 25, 2004

Virginia Kittrell reported on the recycling activities that will be held for America Recycles Day. The art contest deadline will be October 29, and the aluminum can collection contest will be November 5 instead of November 3. A \$100 cash prize will be given to the top two groups that collect the most aluminum cans. The five sponsors include: Southern Miss, The Hattiesburg American, Sumrall Recycling (\$500), South Mississippi Recycling (\$250), and Ben Shemper and Sons (\$250).

Richard Giannini reported that this is the last year for Conference USA. Starting next year, there will be a new conference.

President Thames reported that Gene Carlisle enjoyed the Falkner–Carlisle Field dedication. The Dixie Darlings were great. Richard Giannini said there was a lot of enthusiasm over the weekend. More people are attending games in motor homes. Ticket sales were great. Student attendance was good. Over 32,000 people attended.

The California game may be moved to Friday night, December 3, for ESPN. Stan Kittrell's son was injured during the police escort. He is a policeman for the Hattiesburg Police Department.

Lisa Mader stated that Kameron Dale did a great job organizing the Boy Scouts for the Homecoming parade and getting donations. The goal was \$500, and \$1,600 was raised. The Athletic Department gave the Boy Scouts tickets.

It was recognized by Dr. Thames that the campus is always kept clean, and appreciation was expressed to the staff that make that happen.

Gregg Lassen announced that the Pike's won the Homecoming contest. A former Pike, a pilot who flew over Iraq, donated an American flag to Southern Miss.

Dr. Cecil Burge announced a \$17.5 million award. It is the largest award to Southern Miss. This money will be awarded over five years. Southern Miss has had an increase in the number of proposals

again. The Southern Miss Web site was hacked. Dr. Burge stated that Southern Miss is trying to find additional resources for campus needs/homeland security.

Mr. Lassen stated that there is a radical transformation of the commissioner's view of higher education. Dr. Potter is beginning to understand that we need to focus on research and economic development. The state is realizing we need to change the focus because appropriations continue to decrease. There isn't enough money. It is our responsibility to help the state get more money.

Walt Cain reported that everything was positive about the night game. A large number of people attended the parade. He stated that the SGA purchased additional lighting for The District area. Mr. Lassen said the structures for the lighting are being set now. The SGA constitution did not pass. Walt Cain reported that the problems will be worked out by the end of the semester. SGA will provide transportation to the polls on the day of the election. SGA registered an additional 500 students to vote. The "State of the SGA" address will be given on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, in R.C. Cook University Union at 8 p.m.

Dr. Thames announced that a program name change for Software Engineering Technology will be submitted to IHL again. He explained to IHL that technology is changing, and we shouldn't be bashful about requesting these kinds of programs. Traditional engineering programs are not what we are looking at.

Dr. Beckett said his wife commented on how good the landscaping on campus looked. This is good for recruitment. Sid Krhut and his employees should be commended for a job well done. Post-tenure review was briefly discussed. Mary Lux was appointed to chair that committee. The Faculty Senate will take the lead, and then everyone else will get involved. This will need to be done very soon. Advisement--which lasts about two weeks--is forthcoming. There were a couple of brush fires on the Gulf Coast campus. Dr. Grimes and Dr. Beckett are determining the cause of the fires. The new calendar was presented to Faculty Senate; the faculty were pleased with the new calendar.

Cabinet - November 1, 2004

Virginia Kittrell inquired about the Employee Appreciation Day that has traditionally been held the Friday before Halloween. Dr. Thames asked Virginia Kittrell to get with Dr. Beckett to send a proposal to Public Relations. The art contest and letter-writing contest for America Recycles Day will be held today at 4 p.m. Currently, Pi Beta Phi has submitted 7.5 bags of aluminum cans for the collection contest. The Hattiesburg American highlighted the Southern Miss recycling events in an article last Wednesday or Thursday and again on Saturday. The guessing contests will be set up today and will last through Friday. The tailgate event will be held on Saturday in front of Vann Hall. Balloons and stickers will be available for kids.

Bob Pierce announced that Perrin Purvis, past president of the Alumni Association, will be inducted in the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Alumni Association is assisting with the bond issue.

Richard Giannini announced that the Southern Miss football team has moved up to No. 21 in the polls. At 2 p.m. today, elected city officials and the board of supervisors along with Tony Phillips, mayor of Petal, will be at Reed Green Coliseum to support the bond issue. All athletic staff will work at a precinct. Students will be at various intersections promoting the bond issue. Sweet Peppers restaurant and CiCi's Pizza have been publicly criticizing and opposing the bond issue. The Cincinnati game will be at 2 p.m. Ray Guy is the first Southern Miss football player inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. Saturday is also Black and Gold Day, High School Band Day, and Legislative Day. Usually, about 2000 students are present for Black and Gold Day.

Dr. Thames stated that the presidents of the Staff Council, Faculty Senate and Student Government Association should try to be present to talk with the legislators at the game. Susan Sanders can provide a list of those who will be present.

Dr. Cecil Burge discussed the partnership between Southern Miss and IBM. The goal is to lower the total cost of computer ownership. Homer Coffman went through a great deal of negotiations for this contract. Southern Miss will have better computer support. IBM will pay us to do the warranty work. The purchase of computers is only 20 percent of the cost; the majority of the cost is in maintenance, software, etc. This hardware will roll out within the next 10 days.

Dr. Joe Paul stated that Black and Gold Day is a big recruitment day for Southern Miss. Students responded well to Homecoming. Walt Cain and Dr. Paul will speak to high school students at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Walt Cain announced that this week is SGA Week. A shuttle will be provided tomorrow to get students from campus to the voting precincts. Walt Cain did an interview with the Student Printz Friday. Students will have an event in downtown Hattiesburg on Friday. A pep rally will be held at 9:30 p.m. Seven bands and six restaurants will be participating in the event. The event is free; approximately 5,000 invitations were sent to high school students. SGA passed the constitution. Walt Cain will give the "State of the SGA" address on November 9.

Dr. Burge announced that \$750 million has been awarded from lawsuits for illegal downloading of music from the Internet. Four of the defendants are Southern Miss students. Downloading of music violates the Southern Miss use agreement. The typical settlement is approximately \$10,000.

Dr. Jay Grimes stated that banners are going up all over the Gulf Coast. Curbs at Gulf Park were painted gold. The campus looks good. The largest seminar in history was held at the Long Beach campus. It was very well received and was supported by a partnership between Southern Miss and The Sun Herald. The Friendship House is coming down this week.

Dr. Thames stated that Johnny Stringer, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the state universities will have a tough year. We will be doing good to maintain our current budget. The Legislature will not provide any additional money.

Lisa Mader reported that it will cost \$3,100 to take down the banner on the front of Panhellenic. It will come down in about three weeks.

Dr. Cynthia Moore announced that Carla Cascio, Virginia Kittrell, and Paige Strickland will conduct a seminar on how to submit work requests for building liaisons. The new classroom furniture will be in after exams.

Gregg Lassen reported that the West Building Materials building has the skin off now. The metal supports are coming off. The concrete will be broken up, and a new parking lot will be constructed. Approximately 300 additional parking spaces will be created.

5.2 President-Elect's Report - Valerie Horne - No report

5.3 Secretary's Report - Keri Hensarling - No report

5.4 Secretary-Elect's Report - Hitomi Wince - No report

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Filling of Vacant Positions

Brad Sumrall and Beth Bosarge joined Staff Council to fill positions that had been vacated by members who left the university.

6.2 America Recycles Day

This was discussed at length in the President's Report.

6.3 "Polish Your Piece of The Rock"

The date for "Polish Your Piece of The Rock" has been changed to November 19, 2004. Please change calendars to reflect this date change.

7.0 Committee Reports and Assignments

7.1 Assignment of Action Items - No items to assign

7.2 Constitution and Bylaws - Ray Stevens - No report

President Kittrell stated that according to a conversation with Polly Odom, Dr. Thames' secretary, the latest revision of the Constitution and Bylaws has not been signed. Whatever changes need to be made should be done as quickly as possible so that the revisions can be approved by Dr. Thames.

7.3 Legislative - Kameron Dale - No report

7.4 Salaries and Benefits - Mary Butler Sumrall - No report

7.5 University Relations and Cultural Diversity - Stacey Ready - No report

7.6 Technology and Training – Donna Donegan – No report

## 7.7 Other Committees

A. Department of Parking Management Committee – Stacey Ready – No report

B. Scholarship Committee – Virginia Kittrell

President Kittrell is working on setting up a separate account for the money we have dedicated to this scholarship. It cannot be intermingled with our regular budget. As soon as this account is established, the money will be deposited and the process can move forward.

C. Drug and Alcohol Policy Review Committee – Mathew Cox – No report

D. President’s Council – Wynde Fitts –

There was no report of agenda items since the President's Council met after Staff Council. Wynde Fitts asked the group to propose issues that the future representatives could submit for the President's Council agenda.

Dr. Thames specifically asked Ray Scott and Wynde Fitts to bring staff issues, so that the President’s Council can assist all constituencies represented.

E. Performance Review Committee – Virginia Kittrell

Pam Posey, Robin Barnett, Ray Stevens and Russ Willis have committed to serving on this committee. President Kittrell is attempting to contact a faculty member to participate. The recommendations of this committee will be presented to the administration for use in evaluating staff performance.

## 8.0 New Business

8.1 Election for President’s Council (six-month term)

Robin Barnett and Hitomi Wince have volunteered to be on the ballot for this election. The election will be held in December.

8.2 Donation of Leave for Beverly McNeese

Kameron Dale requested that anyone willing to donate leave to assist Beverly McNeese please contact her as soon as possible.

### 8.3 Holiday Celebration

The committee to handle this event will consist of Karen Lott, Hitomi Wince, Bob Lowe, and Mary Sumrall.

### 8.4 Employee Appreciation Day

President Kittrell and Dave Beckett are going to meet and discuss what to request from Public Relations for Employee Appreciation Day.

## 9.0 Announcements

9.1 IHL Meeting - Thursday, November 18, 2004

9.2 Southern Miss vs. Cincinnati at The Rock - Saturday, November 6, 2004, at 2 p.m.

9.3 America Recycles Day Tailgate Party in front of Vann Hall from 11 a.m.-1:30p.m. November 6, 2004.

9.4 Staff Council Executive Committee - Tuesday, November 16, 2004.

9.5 Southern Miss vs. UAB at The Rock - Saturday, November 27, 2004, at 2 p.m.

## 10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Keri Hensarling  
Secretary  
November 2004