

***** APPROVED MINUTES *****

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

October 5, 2004

1.0 Call to Order

President Kittrell called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The following members were present:

Robin Barnett, Kady Beaoui, Kalin Butirich, David Byrd, Donna Donegan, Tommy Dye, Carol Dunaway, Wynde Fitts, Michelle Fleming, Diane Green, Keri Hensarling, Valerie Horne, Virginia Kittrell, Karen Lott, Pam Posey, 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:

Karen Lott for Myra Herndon-Wade, Kalin Butirich for Bob Lowe, Hitomi Wince for Kim Busche, Ratonia Shaw for Stacey Ready, Pam Posey for Steve Rey, Virginia Kittrell for Kameron Dale, Toni Stringer for Beverly McNeese, Valerie Horne for Frances Sudduth, Donna Donegan for Mathew Cox, Mary Butler Sumrall for Susan King, Trisha Wilbanks for Ray Stevens, Ray Scott for Steve Coleman and Keri Hensarling for Susan Blackwell.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 July Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the July regular meeting were approved.

4.2 August Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the August regular meeting are at the proofreader's office at the time of this meeting. They will be discussed/approved at next month's meeting.

4.3 September Proposed Minutes

The minutes of the September regular meeting are at the proofreader's office at the time of this meeting. They will be discussed/approved at next month's meeting.

5.0 Officer's Reports

5.1 President's Report – Virginia Kittrell – Cabinet – September 13, 2004

Richard Giannini reported that an Emergency Management meeting would be held at 2 p.m. to help determine if the football game would be rescheduled. He asked if the Athletic Department could provide someone to speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the referendum. Virginia Kittrell mentioned someone was already scheduled to speak at the November Staff Council meeting.

Congratulations went out to Dr. Dave Beckett for a job well done at the Golden Eagle Revelry.

Dr. Beckett commented on how impressed he was with Community Blitz. Most businesses were very appreciative.

Bob Pierce announced that the College of Business and Economic Development would be honoring Max Draughn. Preparations are under way for Homecoming.

Virginia Kittrell announced the upcoming Staff Council workshop, "Basics of Grant Proposal Development." Presenters will be Connie Wyldmon and Bonnie Cooper. The workshop will be held Monday, September 13, 2004, 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Union Room C.

Dr. Joan Exline announced that she and Dr. Thames had been traveling to area community colleges to work out articulation issues. They have received good responses because of their diligent efforts in trying to work with the community colleges and encouraging students to come to Southern Miss.

Dr. Joe Paul stated that there was a new organization whose purpose is to get transfer students involved in campus activities.

Dr. Exline mentioned that the junior colleges would like to have an event where their top students come to Southern Miss and representatives from Southern Miss go to their college.

Gregg Lassen mentioned that Kelli Booth was having her baby today. Two hundred new parking spaces were being created at Ross Boulevard. West Building Materials is coming down, and 200 new parking spaces will be created there as well.

Cabinet – September 20, 2004

Gregg Lassen announced that we were very fortunate that the hurricane turned away from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and that there was no significant damage to the Hattiesburg campus. Dr. Jay Grimes stated there was minimal damage on the Gulf Coast campuses. It was mentioned that there was no emergency generator for the network system, and that was something that needed to be addressed.

Walt Cain announced that both branches of the freshman group would be in place by Friday. The SGA is helping get students registered to vote. He stated that SGA passed a resolution to get recycling on campus reinstated. The SGA was working on having the sign at Panhellenic taken down due to the negative response from the building occupants. The Homecoming application deadline was extended due to the bad weather.

In response to Walt Cain's announcement about the SGA having recycling reinstated on campus, Virginia Kittrell announced that recycling was still going on. There are two drop-off sites, one at Physical Plant and one at Pine Haven. Several other sites are positioned across campus and most offices have paper recycling. President Kittrell mentioned that she and Lorinda Krhut are discussing a pilot recycling project in some of the dorms. Southern Miss is working on planning for America Recycles Day in November.

Bob Pierce announced that the time for the Tulane game had changed to 7 p.m. Tailgating would be at 4:30 p.m. on the top deck of the parking garage. Hamburgers and hot dogs would be \$5. The board meeting would be Saturday morning at the Marriott.

Dr. Joe Paul stated that approximately 1,000 students stayed on campus during the bad weather. Of those, 700 were in traditional residence halls. The other 300 live in fraternities and at Pine Haven. Campus Police were housed in Bond Hall so they wouldn't have to leave. Dr. Swartz stayed at the clinic.

Lisa Mader announced that the Eagle's Eye looks good and is in the mail. As a result of the fire tragedy at the Ole Miss ATO house, we are considering funding a scholarship. At the Houston game, donations will be solicited as people enter the stadium.

Because IHL approved reducing the number of hours from 2450 to 2250 per academic year, students won't have to make up classes missed due to Hurricane Ivan.

Gregg Lassen stated that he and Dr. Thames would be at the legislative budget hearing on Wednesday. The group has prepared a presentation on the return on investment.

Dr. Dave Beckett asked when the reduction of classroom hours would take place. Dr. Joe Paul stated that the Calendar Committee meets this Thursday to review options. The change, though, would not take place this spring.

Richard Giannini announced that the September 16 game was rescheduled for December 4 at 2 p.m. The football field will be dedicated at Homecoming. Someone will speak at the October Faculty Senate meeting about the tax referendum.

Dr. Thames thanked everyone who was involved in the preparation for the bad weather. People were out cleaning immediately after the storm, and everyone did a superb job. A number of students remained on campus and were taken care of very well. Dr. Thames was very proud of everyone.

Cabinet – September 27, 2004

A new parking lot is being constructed across from Pine Haven.

There have been some misconceptions about the availability and equality of financial aid on the Gulf Coast campuses. Financial aid opportunities are exactly the same as on the Hattiesburg campus. Since 80,000 people on the Coast are eligible for tuition reimbursement through their employment. Opportunities to tap into that market are being researched.

Virginia Kittrell announced the results of the “Basics of Grant Proposal Development” workshop. Approximately 25 people

attended with more wanting another session and some wanting a workshop more in-depth. Staff Council will work on that.

Dave Beckett mentioned that Faculty Senate wanted to find out if there was a possibility of transferring the free course benefit to spouses if the employee did not take advantage of it. No other institution does this currently. Dr. Thames said at this time it could not be done, but Gregg Lassen said he would check with his counterparts at other universities to determine their feelings are on this matter.

The Calendar Committee submitted a proposal to be discussed at kitchen cabinet as follows:

Fall 2005

Start Date: August 29

Labor Day Holiday: September 5

Fall Break: October 17 and 18

Thanksgiving: November 23 and 24

End Date: December 16

Spring 2006

Start Date: January 16

Mardi Gras Holiday: February 28 and 29

Spring Break and Good Friday Holiday: April 10 through 14

End Date: May 12

As a result of IHL approval of the reduction of hours from 2450 to 2250, the start of the spring semester could be delayed to allow for intersession courses to assist students who may need additional work prior to the spring semester.

5.2 President Elect's Report – Valerie Horne

I attended the Faculty Senate Meeting on September 10, 2004, and the agenda was very long. Since most of the faculty had been gone during the summer, they had many things to discuss; such as merit raises, provost search, Faculty Handbook, and many others. Dave Beckett reported that he had mixed feelings over the merit raises, but overall he was pleased that they were allowed to participate in the process. They drafted a resolution to provide support for Dr. Beckett to gather information on Becky Woodrick's position. Most

attendees believed that the office should remain open to keep the University in compliance.

The Southern Miss Comcast Golf Classic, held recently at Canebrake Golf Course, raised over \$26,000 for student scholarships and development within the Southern Miss Division of Student Affairs. Chris McGee, tournament director, said this year's turnout of 84 golfers ranked the tournament the largest in the country among Collegiate Golf Alliance-sponsored tournaments. First-place winners in three divisions including students, faculty/staff and alumni/community, will advance to the national championship held on December 5, 2004, at the Badlands Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nevada. Student division winners, Shane Rushing and Brett Morris, tied with Steve Yelverton and Austin Holmes for first place. David Beckett and Kerry Geroux were winners in the faculty/staff division, with Robert Pinson and Pat Ryan (stet.) the alumni/community division. Tournament organizers would like to thank sponsors Comcast Cable, Responsibility Matters, Southern Miss Dining Services, and Barnes and Noble at Southern Miss, as well as national sponsor, the Collegiate Golf Alliance. "Without our sponsors, this tournament wouldn't have been the success it was," McGee said. Student Affairs Development Committee chair Susan Bourland said the division will be able to do great things with the money raised. No fewer than seven student scholarship programs will benefit from the proceeds of the tournament. "We are so excited that the university community has responded so enthusiastically," Bourland said. "We are looking forward to next year." I attended this event as well on October 2, 2004, and Staff Council raised over \$2000 (gross) and we have \$800 (net) to use for textbook scholarships.

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 Golf Tournament

Staff Council will have \$800 plus whatever comes to us from the USM Foundation for our scholarship fund from the golf tournament. Valerie Horne deserves a lot of credit for our success. She worked hard to get prizes and sponsors and also worked the tournament. Now we can begin to work on our scholarship.

6.2 Basics of Grant Proposal Development Workshop
This was discussed at length in the President's Report.

7.0 Committee Reports and Assignments

7.1 Assignment of Action Items

#110 – “Online courses have additional fees. These fees are not included in the tuition waiver. This creates a hardship for staff. I think the Staff Council should investigate these fees and suggest solutions for this issue.” – Salaries and Benefits

7.2 Constitution and Bylaws – Ray Stevens – no report

7.3 Legislative – Kameron Dale – no report

7.4 Salaries and Benefits – Mary Butler Sumrall – no report

7.5 University Relations & Cultural Diversity – Stacey Ready – no report

7.6 Technology and Training – Donna Donegan – no report

7.7 Other Committees:

A. Sexual Harassment – no report

B. Department of Parking Management Committee – Stacey Ready – no report

C. Scholarship Committee – Virginia Kittrell

If anyone wants to serve on this committee, please let President Kittrell know. Robin Barnett will work with the committee, as she is experienced in setting up scholarships. The money from the golf tournament must fund one student scholarship; the remainder of the money can be used as we wish.

D. Drug and Alcohol Policy Review Committee – Mathew Cox – no report

E. President's Council – Wynde Fitts – no report

F. Performance Review Committee – Virginia Kittrell
The committee has not met yet.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Filling of Vacant Positions

Brad Sumrall will replace Charmaine Hill. He was the runner-up in the original election. No other names were on the ballot when Anne Marie Flowers was elected. Trisha Wilbanks will try to recruit a volunteer from GCRL to fill Ms. Flowers' position.

8.2 Polish Your Piece of The Rock – Friday, October 29, 2004

Anyone who would like to participate please let President Kittrell know as soon as possible. This is a fun event. Please participate and recruit faculty, staff and students to help.

8.3 America Recycles Day – Saturday, November 6, 2004

This is not actually a Staff Council event, but the Staff Council will participate and support this event in every way possible.

8.4 Homecoming Display Panel

After some discussion, it was decided that we would not enter a display panel in the Homecoming festivities.

9.0 Announcements

9.1 IHL Meeting – Thursday, October 21, 2004

9.2 Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, October 19, 2004

9.3 Southern Miss vs. Houston at The Rock – Thursday, October 7, 2004, at 6 p.m. (ESPN2) (Offices will close at noon.)

9.4 Southern Miss vs. East Carolina at The Rock – Saturday, October 23, 2004, at 6 p.m. (Homecoming)

9.5 Open Enrollment for Hattiesburg campus – Monday, October 11 through Wednesday, October 13, 2004, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Commons Rooms A and B.

9.6 Open Enrollment for Housing Maintenance and Physical Plant employees – October 6, 2004, from 8:30a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Physical Plant Human Resources Office.

9.7 Open Enrollment for Gulf Coast campuses is the entire month of October.

10.0 Adjournment

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

Keri Hensarling
Secretary
October 2004