

Annual Report for
Staff Council
July, 2014 – June, 2015

Officers:

Rene' Trigg	President
Sheri Lyons	President-Elect (resigned from Staff Council at March, 2015 meeting)
Karen Reidenbach	Secretary (was named President-Elect by electronic vote after the resignation of Sheri Lyons)
Martha Brown	Secretary-Elect
April Jordan	Immediate Past President and Staff Council representative on Executive Cabinet

Members:

Angela Coats	Cassie Cox	Paige Strickland
Keri Hensarling	Sharon Anderson	Toni Stringer
Haley McMinn	Michelle Arrington	Valencia Walls
Emily Holmes	Kimberly Brown	Heather Graves
Kelly Dunn	Jewel Adams	Vijay Patel
Heather Miller	Terry Folkes	Brandi Soule
Jean Jovonovich Alvillar	Maria Englert	Dorothy Mobley
Kimberly Cox Rasmussen	Dana Berry	Jodi Ryder
Mary Virgil	Cory Williams	Laurie Neelis

Fiscal Year 2015 was a great year for Staff Council. Each month the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs met to discuss issues and develop the agenda for each upcoming meeting. Staff Council had some very informative speakers throughout the year, which was a great tool for keeping staff updated on University matters. The Executive Committee also met monthly with Dr. Doug Vinzant, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

In October, Staff Council participated in the Comcast Golf Tournament. Our team, Dane Reiter with Alumni Association and Kerry Geroux with Financial Aid, won the Faculty/Staff division. Staff Council netted \$2025.00 from the tournament. These funds will enable Staff Council to continue providing scholarships each semester to deserving staff members. For the October meeting, Staff Council traveled to NASA Stennis Space Center. Chris Copelan, an Education Specialist with NASA, gave a presentation and Council members also enjoyed a bus tour. Staff Council also awarded a \$250.00 scholarship to Brandon Forrester, who is on staff with Physical Plant.

In November, Staff Council donated food items for two families, one from the Hattiesburg campus and one from the Gulf Coast campus, in need. This was delivered in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In December, Staff Council collected gifts for residents of a local nursing facility. Staff Council also hosted the annual staff Holiday Reception. This event was well attended with door prizes awarded throughout the afternoon. A silent auction was held that raised \$223.00. Human Resources also presented Staff Excellence Awards during this event.

A number of changes were made to the Constitution and Bylaws. The updated documents were presented for approval at the February meeting and then sent to University President Rodney Bennett for his signature.

In conjunction with Founders' Day week, employee appreciation events were held at the Hattiesburg campus, Gulf Park campus, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) and Stennis. Staff Council was instrumental in the planning and executing of all events.

In April, Rene' Trigg and Karen Reidenbach traveled to Delta State University for a MASCO (Mississippi Association of Staff Council Officers) meeting. Six of the eight state universities governed by the IHL were represented. Staff Council will continue to pursue with IHL for staff members at all state universities to have the option of taking courses at any of the 8 institutions.

In May, Staff Council traveled once again, this time to the Gulf Park campus. At this meeting, two \$250.00 scholarships were awarded. Beverly "Tay" Baucum, employed at the Hattiesburg campus and Kady Peitz, employed at the Gulf Park campus, were the recipients. We also enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Heidi Lyn, Professor of Psychology. Dr. Lyn studies non-human cognition and communication. After the meeting, Council members were treated to a tour of the campus.

During the month of May, the Council held elections which resulted in thirteen new members who will begin serving a 3 year term on July 1, 2015.

On June 4, 2015, Staff Council hosted a luncheon to thank all current members, recognize all outgoing members and welcome the new members. All members were encouraged to invite their supervisor to attend.