

COUNCIL ON STAFF AFFAIRS
Minutes of Tuesday, August 20, 2013

1) **Call to order**

a) Chair Regina Lee called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM in the UC Cypress Room.

2) **Roll call:** All representatives must sign/initial the attendance roster to be counted as present.

a) Members present: Sue Bailey, Laura Braun, Sabrina Daniels, Veronica Graham, Jonathan Klotz, Beverly Amiot, Olivia Blakely, Bobby Flowers, Shanika Hezekiah, Regina Lee, Marlene Marlow, Laura Pitts, Courtney Wilkes, Donnell Davis Jr., Sandra Griffin, Brandy Grucella, Angela Uyeno, Joan Dear, and Denise Bogart*. The following members were absent: Barrie Fitzgerald, Brian Haugabrook, Terence Sullivan (Proxy-Sue Bailey), Yvonne Landers, Lisa Snipes (Proxy-Regina Lee), Ron Butler (excused), Michael Knight, Terri Gerhardt, Bob Lee*, Jessica Klotz (Proxy-Jonathan Klotz), Pete Harkness*, and Ed Walker*. Guests were: Vicki Pennington (Valdosta Women's Voices), Kathryn Grant (Valdosta Women's Voices), Catherine Wills (HR), Maurie Tarpley (HR), Cheryl Hatcher (LCOBA Decision Center), Jeff Shipley (LCOBA Decision Center), Sage Archer (Event Services), Mark D. Morris (AFROTC-Aerospace Studies), and Heather Proctor (Alumni Relations). (An *asterisk denotes a non-voting member.) **Please send a proxy if you cannot attend a meeting.**

3) **SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY**

a) Vicki Pennington of Valdosta Women's Voices introduced Kathryn Grant to speak about her organization, The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, and the current bill, SB 101, that is up again for a vote in January 2014 when the State legislature is back in session. SB 101 will, among other things, allow guns on public college campuses. The USG has publically come out against this bill. The bill narrowly passed last spring and when it comes up for a vote in January, it has more than a 50% chance of passing. Kathryn explained that her organization is working to educate people about this bill, collects signatures on petitions, and encourages people to write, call, email their state legislators to ensure the voices in Valdosta are heard on the issue and this bill is stopped. Kathryn asked for support from members of COSA. There will be a "Day of Action" event on Saturday, October 5 on campus - volunteers will hand out flyers, gather signatures on petitions, and education people about this issue and what they can do to stop SB 101.

b) Dr. McKinney talked about the gun legislation and the unified effort of the USG to stop SB 101. He also discussed some of the changes to Homecoming Week and the expansion of VSU's mission to serve the entire state of Georgia and beyond. VSU is no longer a regional university; we are now a comprehensive university. Dr. McKinney continued sharing ideas for creating touchstone events for alums (like spring reunion weekends) and asked the COSA reps to share ideas for engagement of alumni. Heather Proctor provided additional details about Homecoming Week and reminded the group that September 7th is the first game. It will be in Macon and a huge tailgate party is planned which will be catered by Fresh Beginnings and a cocktail party also.

4) Approval of the **Minutes of July 16, 2013** meeting of the Council on Staff Affairs

a) A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of July 16, 2013. They were approved unanimously.

- 1) Tickets are ready for the basket fundraiser. They will be \$2 each and each rep will get 10 tickets to sell. The drawing will be held September 12. Money raised will go toward Employee Appreciation.
- 2) Picture day is Friday, Aug 23 at 9 AM at the fountain on the front lawn. Please wear a red shirt (COSA shirt if you have one) and black pants. There is a contingency plan if it rains.

8) Employee Morale

- a) The Dessert Social is scheduled for Nov 22 and we are waiting on confirmation of the location. The President will sponsor most of it but we would like volunteers from COSA to donate some sweets too.

9) Representation on Committees

- a) Parking Appeals – Laura Pitts

- 1) In July, 127 citations upheld and 65 dismissed.

- b) Blazer Books

- 1) Michael Knight is in charge of the committee. The President is looking into making a donation to Blazer Books. We have also been considering increasing the amount per person. It is currently \$100. Three people will be awarded instead of 5, in part to conserve the money in the account. We may increase the number of individuals awarded if Dr. McKinney is able to contribute funds.

- c) Wellness –Lisa Snipes

- 1) The 5K Fun Run is set for Saturday, Aug 24 at 7 AM. It will start at the Student Union. Contact Becky Murphy for more information.

10) New Business

- a) Beverly Amiot reported discussions with the vice chancellor about taking a look at the sick leave policy for the state versus USG. State employees get 10 hours sick leave per month; USG gets 8 hours.

11) Adjournment