



The University of Georgia

Staff Council

Making a great place to work even better!

February 19, 2015

Staff Council Report to University Council

The Staff Council meets once each month, frequently hosting a guest speaker. This year we have heard from Pam Whitten, open Q&A, Mike Friedline on mentoring students, Tim Chester on information technology, Michelle Garfield Cook & Randolph Carter on institutional diversity, Steve Harris on emergency preparedness, Lance Palmer on tax preparation assistance. Upcoming guests include Jere Morehead, Kelly Kerner, Jimmy Williamson, and Ryan Nesbit, and, although he doesn't yet know it, Juan Jarrett.

We always benefit greatly from these interactions, taking away a clearer picture of the university as a whole, what our accomplishments have been, and getting clear descriptions of where we are going and how we intend to get there. These open and amazingly forthright conversations are invaluable for building connections, quelling rumors, and enhancing commitment. We very much appreciate these visits.

Staff Council has long advocated for the concept of a university-wide staff appreciation event. We presented this to the president last summer. I am extremely pleased to report that he instantly accepted and strongly supported the idea and, as you have already heard, the first annual UGA Staff Appreciation Day will be May 15th!

I would like to personally thank Matt Winston and the other members of the Staff Appreciation Event Committee for their ongoing work to make this event a success. When Parking Services answers the question, "Can we let people park for free at the event?" with "Sure, no problem", you know you are well on your way.

I want to particularly thank President Morehead for his effort to express the institution's appreciation for the roles that staff employees play at the University of Georgia. It's a big step in making this great place to work even better.

Michael Lewis
Chair, Staff Council