



The University of Georgia

Staff Council

Making a great place to work even better!

Staff Council Report to University Council, April 22, 2015

The Staff Council held its monthly meeting April 1st, 2015, in Miller Learning Center, room 207, where Kelly Kerner was our guest. His presentation started with a discussion of family, how he and his family have been made to feel a part of our larger UGA family, included sources of revenue, how the university is succeeding in its capital campaign and annual giving, as well as how these gifts are stewarded, allocated, and spent. He mentioned that the university is rated, in part, by alumni giving, and then focused on the value of each and every gift, regardless of size.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Juan Jarrett. We know he will be very busy working to improve our classification and compensation system and offer any assistance we may to this endeavor.

We then held elections for next year's officers. Marie Mize of the Law Library will continue as vice chair, Mary Moore of Institutional Research will continue as coordinator, and Andy Davis of the Family and Consumer Sciences was elected recording secretary.

Reports from the various committee chairs were heard. The report from the University Council library committee discussed ways to reduce the ever-spiraling costs of journals. The report from the University Council meeting resulted in a motion to declare our support for the Graduate Student Association's request for representation on University Council. After discussion regarding the history of women's suffrage in the 1920, civil rights and the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the policies of this university promoting diversity and inclusion, and the notion that each and every voice, regardless of position, deserves to be heard, the attached resolution of support passed by unanimous vote.

I would note that this 219 seat body has 128 members representing 1,774 faculty (1:14, 30 ex-officio and 26 non-academic rank faculty from VP units representing 371 administrators (1:6), 22 members representing over 35,000 students (including over 8,000 graduate and professional students) (1:1600), and 9 Staff Council members representing about 6,500 classified staff (1:850). The idea that voting power of 4% of the university, sitting in 60% of the seats, would be diluted is difficult to accept as a reason to disenfranchise graduate and professional students from a role in the self-governance of this university.

Michael Lewis,
Chair, Staff Council



The University of Georgia

Staff Council

Making a great place to work even better!

A Staff Council Resolution to support the Graduate Student Association's request for University Council representation, approved by unanimous vote, April 1, 2015.

The UGA Staff Council expresses its support of the proposal to amend the University Council bylaws put forth by the Graduate Student Association at the March 25th, 2015 meeting. Under the current allocation, graduate students have only six seats on the council, representing the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate School, and the professional colleges of law, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. Because their experiences are essentially different from those of undergraduates, graduate students are seeking to have one representative from each of the other schools and colleges as a means of participating in university governance.

The University Council is not the Faculty Senate, the Staff Council, nor the Student Government Association; it represents the entire university population. Participation by graduate and professional students, our most educated and developed students, is essential to advancing the university's strategic goal of increasing their numbers. Since inclusion of student and staff representatives to University Council, UGA has not declined, but has indeed climbed higher by most measures.

Allowing these stakeholders a voice in University Council does not detract from the voices of others; rather, it helps ensure a broader perspective and intelligence applied to issues that affect the university community. We encourage our colleagues to vote yes on the second vote to amend the bylaws.