



The University of Georgia

Staff Council

*Making a great place to work even better!*

## **Staff Council Report to University Council, November 18, 2015**

The Staff Council is charged with advising the president on matters relating to the classified staff of the university. Comprised of over 40 representatives from the various units at VP or dean level, we hold monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month, frequently with guest speakers. In the last few months, we have been shown how to use an AED by Steve Harris of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, what changes were forthcoming for the benefits Open Enrollment period by Carol Bugg from HR, Juan Jarrett discussed his high-level priorities for his department, and Evan Tighe of Alumni Affairs gave us his excellent presentation on why the UGA Foundation needs numerous small gifts over time, as much or more than the large one-time gifts, to meet the goal of supporting the university's efforts. It concludes with a strong message asking us to consider UGA as our charity of choice over many others that are headed by UGA alumni, thus leveraging our gifts to further humanity by producing those leaders.

I tend to only occasionally make reports to this body, primarily in the interest of keeping these meetings short. Since my last report in the Spring, there have been a few items of note I would like to report.

We were extremely pleased to assist the president in hosting the first Annual Staff Appreciation Day event. Thousands of employees took a couple of hours May 15<sup>th</sup> to enjoy food, music, and fun. I am very happy to report numerous people told me how much they enjoyed the event, and how they did, indeed, feel appreciated by the president and the university, with many saying that was the first time they did. With that resounding success, we are about to start planning the 2<sup>nd</sup>, annual event.

With the help of Parking Services, we got an electronic sign erected at the Lumpkin St. entrance to the Tate parking facility to indicate Full Status, saving traffic congestion and delays in that area when the lot is full.

We have been very actively promoting the Count-Me-In survey and are looking forward to the report.

We recently formed an ad hoc committee to work with the provost's office and HR to develop and promote leadership training, mentoring, and career development of female staff at UGA. We hope this will parallel new efforts aimed at women faculty.

If there is a vice president or dean here that does not have a representative on Staff Council, please consider sending one. The benefits are palpable.

Michael Lewis,  
Chair, Staff Council

