

Middle Georgia State University Staff Council
Meeting 1 AY 2020/21

Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:00 a.m.

Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Present: Ember Bentley, Samantha Boswell, Rose Brown, Sara Darsey, Noha Eljeid, Christy Faulk, Keisha Fields, Marie Fordham, Kaneshia Grace, Victor Hall, Felicia Haywood, Amy Ingram, Thomasia Jefferson, Ashleigh Jennings, Jennifer Jones, Tiffany Leslie, Ashley Martin, Heather McIntosh, Daphne Murchison, Rose Patti, Tricia Purser, Terri Reckart, Tamika Russell, Vicky Smith, Leigh Ann Tate, Ashley Thompson, Yolanda Traylor, Melissa Wells

Absent: Hye Jin Urban

Guests: Dr. Christopher Blake

Call to Order

At 9:03 a.m., Terri Reckart called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the new Staff Council year. Terri invited Ember Bentley, Chief of Staff and Government Relations Officer, to speak to the Staff Council.

Welcome

Ember Bentley welcomed all to the new Staff Council Year. Ember spoke briefly about the upcoming convocation, noting it will include all the accomplishments of MGA over the past year, and there were many. She then invited Dr. Christopher Blake, President, to speak to the group.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Christopher Blake

Dr. Blake spoke about the 3 pillars of shared governance, Staff Council, Faculty Senate and Student Government Association. His comments on shared governance included the idea that Staff Council should be a place of dialogue, a forum to think about the staff experience at MGA. We are to be a voice for the experience of the staff, and he relies on Staff Council for input from the staff. He also shared that return to campus will begin next week. The USG and the Board of Regents has made accommodations for health concerns of employees only. These health concerns must meet a qualifying condition and MGA must be able to ensure that the individual does no harm to the university by remote work. Refer to MGA Human Resources for exact definitions of health concerns and the process for applications for accommodations. In our return to campus masks or face coverings will be required and social distancing, handwashing and other self managed prevention practices are necessary. MGA is currently preparing messaging for return to campus. Staff Council will be leaders on return to campus. It is inevitable that

someone will get the virus, but our response will be key. To that end, Dr. Tara Underwood, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, has been leading a response team. Dr. Blake also noted that Jenia Bacote, Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, has joined the President's Cabinet this year. She has briefed the cabinet on Diversity and Inclusion efforts planned for this year at MGA. Dr. Blake asked for any questions. There were none. Terri Reckart thanked Dr. Blake for his comments and his support of Staff Council at MGA. Dr. Blake left the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Terri Reckart asked for approval of the agenda. Marie Fordham motioned to approve. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Terri Reckart noted that the minutes of the June 4, 2020 meeting were not available at this time. We will table the approval of these minutes until the next meeting.

Old Business

Polo Shirts – Terri Reckart does have everyone's sizes now in order to have the polo shirts ordered. It is her hope that we will all be able to gather, maybe in the spring, in order to take a group photo with our polo shirts.

New Business

Introductions – Terri Reckart will send something out to all Staff Council members that will allow us to introduce ourselves. We may do this over Microsoft Teams chat function.

Be the Change! – Terri Reckart reminded Staff Council members to Be the Change! This includes leading by example. She noted that “this is the time and we are the people.”

Leadership role as a Staff Council Member – Terri Reckart reiterated our role as Staff Council members. There are over 700 staff members at MGA, with approximately 26 Staff Council members. We should be sure to flow information to staff members and to listen to their concerns to be brought to Staff Council for consideration.

Electing Officers – Terri Reckart called for nominations for the following Officer positions –

Chair Elect – Tamika Russell and Victor Hall were nominated

Treasurer – Marie Fordham was nominated

Secretary – Ashleigh Jennings and Amy Ingram were nominated

Parliamentarian – there were no nominations

After each Officer nomination, a vote was taken. The results were as follows–

Chair Elect – Tamika Russell received 12 votes and Victor Hall received 7 votes

Treasurer – Marie Fordham was named treasurer, unopposed

Secretary– Ashleigh Jennings received 11 votes and Amy Ingram received 4 votes

Parliamentarian – n/a

The new Officers for the 2020-2021 MGA Staff Council are:

Chair – Terri Reckart

Chair Elect – Tamika Russell

Treasurer – Marie Fordham

Secretary– Ashleigh Jennings

Parliamentarian – n/a

Committee Charges – Terri Reckart asked each committee to name a chair. The following committee chairs were named –

Nominations – Victor Hall, Chair

By-Laws/Policy – Leigh Ann Tate, Chair

Professional Development/Staff Recognition – Rose Brown, Chair

Diversity & Inclusion – Ashley Thompson, Chair

Communications – Ashleigh Jennings, Chair

Teams meetings per committee – Terri Reckart asked each committee chair to reach out

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Respectfully Submitted,

Rose Patti

Staff Council