

**Staff Advisory Committee
Teams Meeting
October 29, 2020**

Members Present: Angie Denson, Margo Dirkson, Shana Eads, Amy Foster, Susan Henry, Michelle Holm, Corinne Johnson, Bethany Jones, Andrea Kruszka, Charlene McClain, Kim Meredith, Michael Sliger, Angie Wells

Members Absent: Kathy Faulkner, Carrie Harris

Others Present: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Thomas Heard, Donna Schrock,

Summary:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Discussion on Parking for Employees

Discussion on COVID-19

Comments by the President

Proceedings:

Chairperson Angie Wells called the Teams meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Andrea Kruszka motioned to approve the agenda. Bethany Jones seconded. APPROVED.

Kim Meredith motioned to approve the minutes from September 10, 2020. Margo Dirkson seconded. APPROVED.

Charlene McClain presented to the committee that she had talked with a 40-year employee who ask her to see if we could get free parking to those staff that have been here for 25 or 30-years and longer. It would be a recognition of their service and a good-will gesture. Angie Denson asked if it would be a gold tag? Thomas Heard mentioned that if it were approved it would have to be across the board and would need to include Faculty and Administrators as well.

Susan Henry mentioned could it possibly be at a lower price rate, similar to those who make less? Wells asked, do we know how many employees that would cover? Heard said he would take it to Dr. Stinson and get information back to the committee.

Wells asked how everyone was doing with COVID and working? Were there any concerns? She noticed the COVID-19 Dashboard had spiked after Fall Break but that it had then gone back down. McClain commented that she was concerned to see the students not wearing their masks in the Library. You could ask them to put their masks on and as soon as you walked away they would take them off again. Thomas said that he was on the COVID-19 Task Force and that our infrastructure was more than what most Universities were doing. That our numbers were down compared to others. He complimented on how well Leigh Ann Ray, in Health Services, was doing such a great job. He said that

we could ask Katie Williams, Dean of Students, to walk through the Library at high volume times and that she can speak to the students and encourage them to wear their masks.

Kim Meredith asked where do the numbers on the Dashboard come from? Thomas stated that a large majority of our cases are the students contracting them from their parents. It is self-reported data and from the survey that employees take. Our Health Services can do the rapid test but they have to show symptoms. Otherwise, he recommended that people go to the Health Department, at the fair grounds, it is quicker and reliable. They can get results within 24 hours.

Wells commented on how empty the hallways are and the ones she sees are wearing masks. She has not heard of any complaints from the faculty. She does miss the students and want things to get back to normal.

President Oldham said he will follow-up with Dr. Owens about the students in the Library. He agreed that when he went through the library the students were not all wearing masks. We need to remind them again. He has put out a recent video trying to alleviate any uncertainty that there may be on campus or rumors that we were going 100% virtual. We will try to make it through the semester in person. The case counts are very manageable. We do need to have better therapeutics and a vaccine.

The President commented that this year Preview Day was split into three days. There were 600 perspective students and it was very successful. Enrollment & Career Management did a great job. Commencement will be early December and similar to the summer commencement. There will be separate ceremonies and graduates will be able to walk across the stage to get their diploma.

Regarding Capital Projects: The West Patio and the fire pit is open. A lot of students are using them. The lecture hall in the Science Building is currently being used. The faculty will move into the Science Building in December to open for the Spring Semester. There will be an Einstein's Bagel in there. The rest of the funding for the Engineering Building should come through and we will move forward. Cooper & Dunn is available to move in. Brunner is still under construction. We will redo Peachtree on campus next summer. It will be mainly pedestrian area from 8th street and north. We will rename the street on the interior of campus to distinguish it from the city street.

The revised October Budget was submitted to the state. We were better off than we previously thought. We are comfortable but taking the conservative approach.

The President thanked the committee and all the staff for what they have done for the students to help them stay in school and finish. We are in the people business and your interaction with the students make a difference. Keep up the good work!

Questions for the President: Wells asked the President if parking will remain for now on Peachtree? The President said we will have access to the two parking lots. Charlene thanked the President for taking her concerns and for caring, it came out loud and clear. The President said we do care about everyone on campus and he is pleasantly surprised how well the students have done with everything we have asked them to do. Other campuses have struggled with that.

Amy Foster asked if he thought the students are happy for the amount of classes that are offered on campus versus online or hybrid? He said there is not a strong consensus on any one thing to do to accommodate everyone. The students do want to be on campus more but appreciate what they do have on campus. Foster felt sorry for the high school students who did not get to finish out their senior year and now they don't get to start college like normal. There is no social life for them. We need to try to

offer more so they feel like they are getting the college life. The President replied that we need to maximize personal interaction safely. We are the only institution that have done on campus orientation (SOAR). We revised Homecoming and it should be good for them. All fall varsity sports were delayed until spring. We will be having a sport going on about every day of the week. Basketball will start up and the players will be tested three times a week. The seating will be spread out and people will be wearing masks.

Wells asked what they were doing on Dixie? The President replied there was a steam line being replaced and they will be working on it into December.

No other such matters.

Michelle Holm motioned to adjourn. Amy Foster seconded. Adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Donna Schrock, recorder