

**UNCG Staff Council**  
**September 8, 2005**

**Present:** Linda Anderson, Linda Bennett, Karen Christensen, Jennifer Clark, Pat Combs, Karen Core, Sarah Cottrell, Mary Early, Judy Lillis, Sherri MacCheyne, Lee Odom, Cheryl Sarratt, Angela Scott, Marcia Terrell, Paula Terrell, Glenn Vignola,

**Alternates Present:** Erin Fox, Brenda Hemphill, Robin Kallam, Diane Logan, Kelly Meris, Amy Moore

**Ex-Officio Present:** Ronnette King

**Absent with Notice:** Joella Anderson

**Absent:** Jodi Barber, Lisa Benatti, Amy Berrier, Thomas Everett, Kerry Hinshaw, Kathleen Mooney, Linda Nolte, Karen Ritter, Lillie Russell, Trina Smith, Bob Snyder, Evan Wade, Scott Walser, Cindy Webster

**Visitors:** Kathy Busch

**Roll Call:** The roll was passed. 16 members and 6 alternates were present.

**Group Picture:** A group picture was made

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Karen Christensen

**Minutes of the August Meeting:** The minutes of the August 11 meeting were approved by Cheryl Sarratt, and Diane Logan seconded the motion.

**State Employees Combined Campaign:** Pam Cash-Chair of the SECC, gave a presentation. The SECC is running from Sept. 15 to Nov. 11. The goal for 2005 is \$185,000. The needs are greater this year due to Hurricane Katrina.

Participation in SECC helps to show our community and others in North Carolina that UNCG can be counted on. Last year the Participation rate was 51%. This was higher than all the other UNC schools that are our size or larger.

Pam stated that Staff Council members are leaders on campus. She acknowledged our history of helping others through the many service projects. She also asked that the Staff Council representatives participate in the campaign and encourage others to do so as well.

Their website is [www.uncg.edu/secc](http://www.uncg.edu/secc).

**Human Resource Services Update:** Deb Carley reported that the legislative increase for SPA employees will be in the September paychecks. The increase will be either \$850 or 2%, whichever is greater. The increase is retroactive to July. To receive the pay increase, employees have to be on payroll by June 30. This is in addition to the \$850 raise. Employees also received 40 hours of Bonus Leave. This will apply to any employee hired

by September 1. Employees on Leave Without Pay or Workers Comp. cannot receive the bonus until they come back to work.

**Minimum Wage-** As part of the Fair Minimum Wage, The General Assembly has set aside funds to increase employee salaries that are below \$20,000 to \$20,112. The employee must be subject to the State Personnel Act. Employees must have a permanent, probationary or time-limited position. The increase does not apply to employees separated from State service prior to July 1.

**Retirees-** The General Assembly also passed the Appropriations Act. This changed the definition of retirement for the NC Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System. In order for a state employee's retirement to become effective, the member must render no service, including part-time, temporary, substitute, or contractor service, at any time during six months immediately following the effective date of retirement. This becomes effective November 1, 2005, but does not apply to participants in The University of North Carolina Phased Retirement Program until June 30, 2007.

**Health Plan Changes:** The cost of Health Insurance is increasing 11%. The Employee/Child(ren) will increase from \$178.22 to \$200.18. The Employee/Family will increase from \$427.48 to \$480.14. The employer contribution will increase from \$285.92 to \$321.14. The Employee Only will stay the same. There will be no change to the deductible. It will remain at \$350. Prescriptions will rise from \$35 to \$40. The prescriptions that are now \$40 will rise to \$50. These changes will be effective September 20. Mammograms now have a separate wellness benefit. The plan will pay 100% of allowable charges once a year for women 40 or above. Emergency room trip will increase from \$100 to \$200. The maximum on co-insurance is increasing from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Outpatient services co-pay will increase from \$50 to \$75. Inpatient co-pays will increase from \$100 to \$150.

A new Director, George Stokes, has been appointed. He will be purchasing a new HMO plan for State Employees. He plans to have it in effect by July 2006.

The NCFlex book will be going out soon. Open enrollment is from October 3 to November 4. NCFlex is a program of pre-tax plans. It includes a dental plan, vision care, supplemental medical, cancer insurance, accidental death & dismemberment, flexible spending account and dependent day care. If you chose, you can participate in any or all. It will be effective on January 1, 2006.

The State is mailing a change in the State Health Plan. If you chose, you can elect to change your health insurance from pre-tax to after tax. The only people that could benefit from this are employees getting ready to retire.

**Greensboro Center for Innovative Development:** John Merrill, Executive Director of GCID, gave a presentation. This is a Joint Millennial Campus of NC A & T and UNCG. It is a Research Park. It is working to bring economic development to the Triad Area. There is a North Campus and a South Campus. Faculty members from both campuses

will work together. The Millennial Campus will have a large number of programs and projects, enabling the faculty and students involved in them to forge collaborations, share facilities and administrative support, and develop new programs that make optimum use of the space available.

The North Campus is located off Highway 29 and is formerly the Central North Carolina School for the Deaf. It contains nine major buildings and is on 75 acres. It is anticipated that a shuttle will provide transportation between the North and South Campus and UNCG & A & T. South Campus is located on approximately 75 acres on the A & T Farm property. UNCG & A & T are looking to develop a state-of-the-art science research park for cutting-edge work in physical sciences, engineering, technology and other applied sciences. Working together, leaders from area business/industries and the Technology Transfer offices at A&T and UNCG would use the research findings and knowledge-based products developed by faculty and students to serve the needs of new and existing companies in the Triad and beyond.

Some of the potential activities for GCID are: Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Environmental Sciences, Electronics and Human Factor, Food and Nutrition, Materials Science and Engineering, Workforce development, Professional Development, Research on students with disabilities, substance abuse and social/behavioral problems, Technical assistance to public schools and social services agencies and Research and programming specific to seniors and older populations.

The next steps for GCID are: Complete Phase II & III of the original study, including a “draft” site plan. Work with campus to determine which groups/programs will be the first to locate at the GCID. Work with facilities planning to develop a “Program Statement” to determine space needs/requirements. Hire Architect/Engineer: \$4 million renovation project at the North Campus. A \$10 million site-plan/master plan/infrastructure/building construction at South Campus, and develop “Business” model for ongoing operations, including internal process for campus involvement.

**Zig Ziglar Update:** Karen Core reported that there are still tickets available to see the “Get Motivated” Conference, with Zig Ziglar as the keynote speaker. It is a Training and Development Conference to promote Professional Development. The group will be leaving at 7:00am on September 21 to attend the event. It will last until 4:30 pm.

**Karen Christensen:** Introduced the Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Chair-Elect of each

Committee.	Enrichment Comm.:	Brenda Hemphill Co-Chair
		We need one more Co-Chair
	Outreach Comm.:	Lee Odom Co-Chair
		Pat Combs Co-Chair
		Jennifer Clark Co-Chair Elect
	Volunteer Outreach:	Karen Core Co-Chair
		Diane Logan Co-Chair
	Public Relations:	Cheryl Sarratt Chair
	Elections:	Ronnette King Chair
	Finance:	Karen Core Chair

**Karen Christensen:** stated possible volunteer activities Staff Council will participate in. Fox 8 gifts for Kids, Urban Ministries and the Heart Walk.

**Suzanne Williams:** Continues to help with the listserv. Thank you Suzanne.

**Angela Scott Update:** Angela received a call from Nancy May (the trainer for the Staff Council Retreat). Nancy May was impressed with the teamwork and different levels of enthusiasm Staff Council has. Nancy might be able to return for a follow-up training session.

Angela spoke with Rosetta Perez, a motivational speaker. Ms. Perez has given permission for us to see her video, based on her book “The Music Is You”, about living life to its fullest.

Angela suggested we organize a “Mirthful Mondays” program. For about 30 minutes during lunch hour, taking the time to bring laughter into our day. She spoke about how important it is to have laughter in our lives. Norman Cousins has written a book “Anatomy of an Illness.” He writes of how he had a terminal illness and he laughed his way back to being healthy.

**Staff Council-** Discussed different ways to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

**Ronnette King** stated High Point University is raising money for Katrina by Staff and Students. For \$1, they can buy a musical note, all proceeds go to Katrina. Ronnette also stated Leslie Veach is the contact person on campus for volunteer opportunities. Ronnette also suggested we have Leslie Veach speak to Staff Council.

**Amy Moore-** The Music Department is having a fundraiser on September 27 to raise money for Katrina. There will be a silent auction and the faculty will perform.

**Glenn Vignola-** Stated that Physical Plant is working on getting a crew together to the Gulf Coast to help with the reconstruction of the homes.

**Sharlene O’Neil-** suggested all of our efforts to raise money be recorded.

**Karen Core-** stated that state employees have 15 days and Community Involvement time that can be used to help the Hurricane relief efforts. However, you have to be certified by the Red Cross to be able to use this time. She called the Red Cross concerning sign-up for classes. All Classes are currently filled. The Red Cross will call when new classes are added.

**Setenna Wyatt:** Her office is supporting a family. They have 3 daughters ages 8, 11 and 13. They are accepting clothes for the children.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Finance:** Karen Core reported there is currently \$1,481.40 in the State Account and \$1,507.69 in the Discretionary Account.

**Public Relations:** Cheryl Sarratt suggested we take a look at the money Staff Council has and see how to allocate it.

**Elections:** Ronnette King has agreed to return as Chair of this committee. Kelly Hilliard (current past Chair) has left the University. Ronnette has accepted the position in her place. Her goal is to put the ballots for the Staff Council elections on-line this year.

**Employee Enrichment:** Brenda Hemphill stated she spoke with Linda Anderson. They will look into applying for a grant to raise money for Staff Council. Amy Moore has experience with writing grants and will help with this.

**Outreach:** Lee Odom named some of the activities this committee started last year. They collected canned goods for Urban Ministries and also did volunteer work. They participated in the Fox 8, Gifts for Kids, the Heart Walk, Staff Stars, and the Suitcase Project for Foster Children. They would like suggestions of other projects Staff Council would like to participate in this year.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Karen Core** made a motion to adjourn.

**Cheryl Sarratt** 2nd the motion.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Staff Council meeting will be held on October 13, in the Virginia Dare room in the Alumni House 10 am -12 noon

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Core