

# EGSC Staff Council

Sept 18, 2020

Location: Zoom  
Organizers: Amanda Douglas  
Attendees: Mike Luzzi, Joy Strickland, Angie Williams, Amanda Douglas, Ranceince Pollett, Treva Johnson, Kaydee Oglesby, Paula Whitmaker, Shelia Bramlett, Charlene Blankenship, Sherri Helms, Ben Johnson, Veronica Cheers, Orry Cordova, Christi Hutchings, Robert Boehmer  
Absent: N/A  
Future Meetings: Zoom November 20, 2020

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## Summary

Unanimous approval of previous minutes.

Speaker Dr. Boehmer managed questions from Staff Council membership (details follow). President Amanda Douglas reported on changes in personnel and welcomed new council members. Event planning is on hold pending Covid-19 management progress.

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## Topics

### Committee Reports

- Member update
    - New Members: See Committee of Elections Notes.
    - Departure and Retirement: Robert Marsh, Steve Lavendar, Sebastian Veris, Kim Carr, Kenneth Homer, Zada Hullander, Traveion Brown
  - Treasurer Report
    - Agency Account Balance: \$9.38. Agreement to spend on nonperishable items for the Bobcat Bridge program
    - Foundation Account Balance: \$420.85
  - Special Events
    - Holiday Luncheons: Uncertain if possible due to Covid-19 restricts. Await word from Angie to consider options
  - Committee of Elections
    - New Staff Council Members: Kaydee Oglesby (Business Affairs), Paula Whitaker (Student Affairs), Christi Hutchings (Academic Affairs)
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### Department News and Upcoming Events

- Counseling and Disabilities. Lori Burns released an email regarding Suicide Prevention Month educational sessions. Refer to correspondence for dates.
  - SACSCOC: Review scheduled for October 6-8, 2020.
  - President's State of College Address: October 20, 2020 @ 11:00 am
  - December Graduation: Angie will provide information regarding when and how it will be handled as the date approaches.
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## Old Business

- President's Office and Academic Affairs Staff Council update on organizational chart: [Reference bylaws](#)
  - USGSC Conference Minutes: Available online. Amanda Douglas discussed focus.
  - Institution Reports:
  - USG Staff Council 2020 Annual Conference: Zoom registration information (links) available on website: [usg.edu/staff\\_council](http://usg.edu/staff_council)
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## Forum: Dr. Boehmer

Dr. Boehmer led a forum to address staff questions and concerns.

- Introduction:
  - Appreciative of renewal/rejuvenation of staff council and continuation through pandemic.
  - State Budget Cut: 12% instead of anticipated 14%.
  - Enrollment Concerns: Head count is currently down over 13%. Every 1% drop in enrollment amounts to roughly \$75k in revenue. Necessary to determine how to save an additional \$1.3 million.
  - SACSCOC: Accreditation reaffirmation pending. The review is a 2 ½ year process. Anticipated zoom
- Question: Will next semester be similar to current conditions regarding course delivery and activities?
  - Contingent upon where we are at the state level and what the environment looks like. No decisions have been made. Similarly, convocation information unavailable.
- Question: Status of Sports Teams?
  - Competition suspended for FA semester. No decision yet made regarding spring but anticipate similar situation.
- Question: Will the ST campus bookstore move with offices and classes to the GS/ST campus?
  - It will likely look like the university store on the Augusta campus.
- Question: Will faculty and staff be required to take the Covid-19 vaccine?
  - Availability of vaccine to college and university populations not likely until the middle of 2021. EGSC has been asked to participate with all USG institutions as a distribution center as the vaccine becomes available. It is unlikely that vaccination will be required.
- Question: Would another outbreak cause EGSC to close again?
  - It is unlikely that EGSC would fall into the early category among colleges that reach this kind of level. Approximately 35 faculty and staff members contracted Covid-19 this month. There is uncertainty surrounding the number of reports. Critical numbers might be reached elsewhere.
- Question: Will EGSC employees take furlough days?
  - This may be an avenue to offsetting the 12% cut in state allocation. We have managed employment numbers to date by implementing a hiring freeze in the early stages and avoided filling vacant positions. See notes re: Enrollment numbers. EGSC leadership is in the process of trying to find ways to manage the cut that includes a request to USG for additional funding. It will be necessary to go beyond current steps if USG assistance is not provided. One proposal to address management includes proposing furloughs as a partial solution. The governor was in favor of furloughs earlier in the year.
- Question: Is the drop in enrollment due to lowered entrance requirements at GSU? If so, can we expect the return of students who struggle at GS?
  - GSU Enrollment Changes: SAT/ACT testing is suspended, attracted a high number of high school students. Instead, universities such as GS and KSU will rely on GPA scores to set a standard for enrollment (ex. 2.5). This provided an opportunity for first year students who have not yet completed 30 hours to transfer earlier than planned. There is no perfect way to calculate the impact of lowered standards on EGSC enrollment, but leadership can infer from data that the number of students who are now able to enter the universities typically yield the rate of that group of students that would have matriculated to EGSC (numbers are nearly exact)
- Question: Could this help request with a request for funding at the state level or avoid being merged/consolidated?

- The argument is being presented to the state level. It does not appear that the situation makes EGSC more susceptible to a merge. This would be a possibility if the deference of SAT requirements become permanent. Does not appear that parties are interested in a merge.
  - Question: Will the 13% cut result in the elimination of some positions?
    - Refer back to budget discussion. Potential is dependent upon the significance of revenue sources that can be found.
  - Question: What is EGSC's plan for managing Covid-19:
    - Answers can be found by visiting David Gribbins website on the re-accreditation process. Three critical documents have been posted, include that filed for compliance certification last spring. It is currently 550 pages in length.
  - What is the intended action plan for the ACE?
    - Refer to the section regarding Academic Support along with the executive summary of the QEP plan and additional topics of interested. Those interviewed during the renewal process will be asked about information we already know. The interviews are nearly always collegial.
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### **Updates and Announcements**

N/A

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### **Adjournment**

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