The following report provides a summary of the Staff Support Council’s accomplishments for this academic year.
Message from the Chair

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as your 2017 – 2018 Chair for the Staff Support Council at Savannah State University and to work with an outstanding executive committee. At the start of this academic year our primary goal was to foster a spirit of community and collaboration through service and recognition activities that would increase morale and camaraderie amongst staff members. It is because of your support of our efforts that today we can reflect on our accomplishments.

Today Savannah State University continues to carry out its mission and experience unparalleled growth due to our most talented, innovative and progressive staff. You are the backbone of this institution and it is because of your selfless efforts that we can celebrate its many successes.

As the 2018 – 2019 officers of Staff Support Council prepare to serve, I ask that you render your support and invest your time by attending the meetings, sharing your ideas and voicing your concerns. Thank you for all that you continue to do!

“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.”
– Henry Ford

Sincerely,

Johnny McDonald

Johnny McDonald
Staff Support Council Chair
2017 - 2018
**MISSION**
The purpose of the Savannah State University Council is to participate in the process of University governance by acting in an advisory capacity to the President about issues that affect and concern SSU staff as well as the general welfare of the University. The Council strives to be a voice in decision making, promote the development and recognition of staff and supports the mission of Savannah State University.

**GOALS**
Staff Council is a collective voice for those who work in non-faculty employee roles. We support a variety of activities and initiatives to improve the quality of life and effectiveness of the university’s dedicated and valuable staff. The Council has set the following goals:

- Facilitate opportunities for staff to give back to the local community through service.
- Promote an atmosphere where staff invest in themselves by increasing their knowledge, improving their work experience and quality of life.
- Increase collaboration and communication between faculty, staff and administration.
- Enhance camaraderie of staff through social and professional development events.
- Increase awareness and function of Staff Council to the campus community.

**LEADERSHIP**

- The executive committee held meetings at 3:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month. To accommodate staff across campus, meetings were held in multiple locations. The executive committee consisted of Chair, Johnny McDonald; Vice Chair, Marius Davis; General Secretary, Jora McDonald and Corresponding Secretary, Stephanie Sneed.
- Nominations for the 2018 – 2019 Executive Board are now open and elections will be on 6/21/18.
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES
- Parking & Transportation Committee
- Parking Appeals Committee
- Food Services Committee
- Budget Committee
- Ceremonies & Occasions Committee
- Homecoming Committee
- Shared Leave Committee
- OneUSG Change Network Committee
- Well – being Committee
- And other special projects

COMMUNICATION
- Completed an update for the Staff Council webpage.
- Created an official email account for communication to be sent to all constituents.
- Created social media accounts for increased engagement with staff via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Created a new and official Staff Support Council logo through University Advancement.
- Created new Staff Support Council brochures to be used by Human Resources as a part of a welcome packet for new staff members.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- Workshop: “Engaging Staff in Student Success"
- Workshop: “Digital Professionalism in Higher Education"
EVENTS

- **SSU History Walk:** Campus tour used to teach new staff members about the legacy, history and traditions of Savannah State University while providing in depth information on the offices, programs and resources offered in each campus building. To this date over 50 staff have participated in this activity.

- **Fall Food Drive:** On campus community service to the campus where over 600 non-perishable food items and canned goods were collected. Donations were provided to the SSU S.T.A.R. Program for students who are experiencing homelessness and/or a severe lack of resources.

- **School Colors Day:** Activity to promote the educational diversity of our staff members while also demonstrating school pride and camaraderie amongst staff members. Over 25 institutions were represented.

- **Campus Decorations Contest:** Activity that was a part of the recent homecoming celebration. Over 20 offices participated which was recorded as the largest participation in over the past 10 years.

- **Tiger Claus:** President’s Holiday Reception that is partnered with the Office of the President and University Advancement. Over 250 toys and apparel items were collected and distributed to the Greenbriar Children’s Center and Union Mission.

- **Gift Wrapping with Greenbriar:** Off campus community service in collaboration with Greenbriar Children’s Center for their Annual Gift wrapping center at the Oglethorpe Mall. This was an opportunity to give back during the holiday season.

- **Greek Unity Day:** Activity to promote the diversity of staff members in their respective Greek lettered organizations to include fraternities, sororities, honor societies and professional fraternities and sororities. Over 10 Greek lettered organizations represented.

- **Volunteer Efforts:** Founder’s Day, Homecoming, Fall Commencement, Honors Convocation and Spring Commencement.
EVENTS (CONT’D)

- **Laney’s Listening Tour:** Forum for staff members with Provost Laney and Academic Affairs to engage about concerns and discuss opportunities for partnership in student success.

- **Staff Recognition & Campus Meeting:** Activity to celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of staff members, present awards, elect new officers and provide an annual report.

- **Staff Appreciation BBQ:** Activity for staff to enjoy food, fun, games and music while being celebrated.

- **Staff Council Baseball Night:** Activity with the Savannah Bananas to allow staff to participate and enjoy an evening of baseball.

- **Annual Summer Bowling Bash:** Activity for staff to enjoy the sport of bowling while competing for the first place trophy and highest scoring male and female bowler.

MOVING FORWARD

- Continuation and building upon the Staff Recognition Program.
- Creation of Staff Scholarships for Professional Development.
- Creation of a Staff Leadership Institute.
- Creation of a Staff Support Council Book Scholarship for students.
VISIT US
Savannah State University:
www.savannahstate.edu

SSU Staff Support Council:
www.savannahstate.edu/faculty-staff/staff-council.shtml

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