Building Community: Creating Partnerships

Employee Council Meeting
February 21, 2007 at 12:00 Noon
Seney Hall Conference Room, Oxford Campus

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Berky Abreau          Katherine Hinson
Chris Alexander       Marsha Howard
Yasmin K. Ali         Linda King
Laurie Asherman       Missie Martin
Sharon Ashley         Bill McBride
Jamila Garrett Bell   Sian Morgan
Melissa Blackmon      Iruka Ndubuizu
Kathleen Brennan      Carol Nichols
Louis Burton           Linda Sheldon
Jackie Culliton        Judy Shema
Carol Duncan           Stephanie Stephens
Matt Englehardt        Dee Wilson
Betty Goetz

ALTERNATES:
Karen Luhers

EXCUSED:
Sharon Ashley          Bremda Gresham
Felicia Bianchi        Darlene Hayes
Margaret Clawson       Joyce Jaleel
Susan Doherty          Kenny Kelly
Cheryl Elliott          Ed Koffsky
Alex Escobar           Joanne Rackstraw
Welcome
Introduction of Guest Speakers
President, Linda Sheldon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced guest speaker, Myra Frady, Dean for Resource Planning, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Lecturer of Mathematics at Oxford College.

Oxford Campus Master Plan

Dean Frady’s speech entitled “Planning for the Best” spoke about the Oxford Campus Master plan. She began by sharing Oxford College’s Vision Statement, highlighting the importance of a sense of place to Oxford. She explained the layout of the core of the campus and showed where Oxford owns property that can be developed. Oxford has 13 strategic initiatives designed to achieve six goals. The six goals are: to develop a sustainable campus, preserve a sense of place, respond to human scale, be pedestrian friendly, stay true to a metaphor from Oxford’s founding of a “temple within the trees”, and be cost conscious.

The intent is to re-establish the original campus plan of rays reaching out along site lines from the heart of the campus. The land use framework is based on preserving and developing. A question was raised asking if any of the buildings are on the historic register and the answer is no because it would be too restrictive and is unnecessary since Oxford is very mindful of preservation.

A new science center and library will be built. Residence halls are lacking and will be built and expanded. The gymnasia will be connected. The new library will have a huge reading hall that will adhere to a human scale and face the forest. It will touch Phi Gamma Hall, the oldest academic building on campus. That building was most recently used as a student theatre, was closed for four years and recently renovated opening as a study center. The chapel has been renovated. The new library will respond to the scale of these two historic buildings. The new science hall design results from work done at Project Kaleidoscope, which promotes leading edge design for science study facilities. A new residence hall will be built first, the science hall will be second, and the library will be built third. A new ceremonial entrance to the campus will revive the ray design of the original campus plan. Dean Frady believes that the new campus master plan definitely meets the six goals stated in the beginning of her talk.

OLD BUSINESS

Corrections were made to the January meeting minutes and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Introduction of New Members
New members Judy Shaw, from Oxford, and Karen Luhers, the alternate for Yerkes, were introduced.

**Treasurer's Report**
Chris Alexander reported that the budget currently stands at $2534.45. There will be a recording expense for the town hall meeting, but the law school is paying for food for that event.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Town Hall and Spring Forum Flyers are available to post for your constituents. It was noted that the spring forum flyers have an error and a corrected version has been emailed with the new schedule.

**Committee Chair Updates:**

**Historian:**
Betty Goetz gave a brief history of Oxford College. High points in that history include:

- In the 1830’s Georgia Methodists contemplated establishing a “manual labor school” – work in the fields would fill otherwise-idle hours and build character as well as bodies. In 1834 the Georgia Conference established a preparatory school on some 400 acres of Newton County.

- On December 10, 1836 the Georgia General Assembly granted a charter to Emory College, named for John Emory, a popular bishop who had presided at the 1934 conference, but had been killed in 1835 in a carriage accident.

- On September 17, 1838, the College’s first president Ignatius Alphonso Few and three other faculty members welcomed fifteen freshmen and sophomores. Emory College and the newly created village of Oxford grew side by side to become an important center for education. In 1841 Emory College first graduates, three in number, received their diplomas.

In retrospect, the mission of the nineteenth-century college appears to have been to rein in the spirit as much as to expand the mind. Certainly that was true at Emory. The 1839 Emory College catalogue warned against attending cockfights, visiting the city of Covington without permission due to its evil bars, drinking intoxicating beverages and gambling, among many others potential offenses.

- Intramural athletics had an important place at Emory for well over 100 years – although Emory has never played intercollegiate football and still proudly proclaims, under the emblem of a football on tee-shirts, “Undefeated Since 1836.”

- When war broke out between north and South in 1861, every student left to fight and college trustees closed for the duration. Unused college buildings were first commandeered as a Confederate hospital and then occupied by Northern troops. Thirty-five Emory men lost their lives in service to the Confederate Army.
• In 1875 Atticus Haygood, eighth president of the College preached a Thanksgiving Day sermon entitled “The New South” which so impressed George I. Seney, a New York banker and Methodist layman, that he gave Emory College $130,000, part of which was used to finance the construction of Seney Hall.

• In the late 1800’s Emory’s curriculum had evolved from a traditional liberal arts program to become broad enough for students to earn degrees in science and to pursue learning and expertise in technology and tool craft to produce students who would be skilled workers as well as educated men. Emory’s ninth president, Issac Stiles Hopkins launched a department of technology that struck the fancy of state legislators. He was lured away from Emory to become the first president of what is now Georgia Tech!

• In 1899 an article in the Phoenix, “Reflections of the Skeleton” written by a skeleton in the science room foreshadowed the emergence 10 years later of Dooley as the spirit of Emory.

• In the early 20th century when the Law and Theology Schools began on the Atlanta campus, Bishop Warren Candler, the tenth president of the College, countered voices calling for sale of the Oxford property by proposing that the Oxford physical plant be reorganized as a residential, college preparatory academy, so the Emory University Academy at Oxford was established in 1916.

• The school thrived for three years until the boll weevil destroyed the cotton crop depressing the agricultural economy of the State. With the development of better State supported schools in rural areas, fewer students enrolled each year. Emory University Academy administrators campaigned to restore college level course work at Oxford. Emory Junior College and Emory Academy shared the same campus and resources. This provided an excellent opportunity for many bright students whose secondary education was inadequate for college admission to complete a college preparatory program, brush up on weak subjects and continue on into the Jr. College program and then, on to the Atlanta campus. For more than twenty years, “Emory at Oxford” functioned as both an Academy and a junior college.

• An infusion of veterans into the colleges helped, but the Academy enrollment stayed in steady decline. Influenced by a Chicago model of a “Four Year Program” in Chicago, Emory and Oxford reorganized the Oxford curriculum into the South’s first four year junior college offering an accelerated program for the last two years of high school with the first two years of college, but they could never recruit enough talented high school students to fill the lower classes.

• In the early 1960’s Oxford evolved once more. Now called “Oxford College of Emory University” Oxford positioned itself as a two year college featuring excellence in teaching, small classes and ample faculty-student contact. It provides a focused two year program of general education leading directly to the final two years of academic specialization on the Atlanta campus.
Today Oxford concentrates on the intellectual, social and developmental needs of first and second year students. Oxford faculty are hired and promoted on the quality of their teaching and community service. Classes are small with much discussion and interaction. After classes end most students are involved in campus life as participants in the arts, in athletics, or as leaders in various interest groups. Students who begin at Oxford typically graduate with two Emory degrees.

Students experience Oxford as a place of academic challenge coupled with genuine interest and support for the individual. Oxford students are involved in their community and quickly develop pride and unity.

The council broke into groups for caucuses, followed by further committee reports.

**Strategic Planning:**
Matt Engelhardt gave reports for the sub-groups of this committee. The Benefits group has an upcoming meeting with Peter Barnes to discuss a leave bank. The work/life balance group is staying informed about the Provost’s Work/life initiative which will be distributing a survey on flexible work arrangements and childcare issues. The survey will be followed by focus groups. The career advancement group feels that a great deal is available to employees but it needs to be communicated. Through human resources, a mentorship program starts in March. Louis Burton pointed out that February 23 is the deadline for nominees for the Awards of Distinction and employees need to be proactive about their careers.

**Communications:**
Katherine Hinson announced the Town Hall next Wednesday, February 28, 2007, from 12:00 - 1:30 pm at the Law School. She said that President Wagner is very excited about the topic of how individual staff members have a role and can be active in carrying out the strategic plan from this point forward. Staff Fest is coming up. Melissa Blackmon will be on an HR committee for it. Katherine asked all EC members to think about what can be offered to staff from the booth to attract attention. The goal it to show staff who the EC is and what do we offer to staff. Please email Katherine with ideas. Linda Sheldon said that improved EC communication, including website updating, will be discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

**Membership:**
Stephanie Stephens asked that all members need to sign in. At the next meeting, please write in the name of your alternate as you sign in, so that the roster can be updated.

**Special Issues:**
Iruka Ndubuizu had no report for this committee.

**Announcements**
Campus Forums and the Town Hall meeting are coming up soon. EC elections will be held in April and nominations will be taken at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at Yerkes, March 21, 2007, transportation will be announced.

**Meeting adjourned.**
Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Culliton
Secretary, Employee Council