

**APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSITY SENATE
STAFF REPRESENTATIVE**

REQUIREMENT: Three years of service as a full-time staff employee

Please complete this form and return it to Mary Nell Stone by January 31, 2012. You may e-mail it to her at mnstone@gsu.edu or submit it in person at the University Senate and Staff Council Offices at 125 Aderhold Learning Center.

You may include a photo of yourself (though it is not required) – if you do, it must be in digital format.

Name: Christopher S. Connelly

Job Title: Director of Marketing and Administrative Support

Department: Auxiliary and Support Services

Employment Date: November 22, 2006

What do you think is the single most important issue for staff at Georgia State University right now?

The University System of Georgia continues to be in a budget crisis, which has prevented salaries from increasing for several years. As a result, we are running the risk of losing talented and valuable people at a time when we are having a mass exodus of talent through the voluntary retirement program.

How would you address that issue as a staff senator?

We need to continue to create and promote moral boosting programs through staff council and senate like our current project to get the University to waive the Recreation Center fees. This will program once enacted will promote health and wellness and provide a valuable perk that will contribute to retention and help with the recruitment of new staff.

Please list two or three other issues that are priorities for you.

As a current elected Senator, I am part of the Student Life and Development Committee. As a new director and only Senator working for Auxiliary and Support Services, I am able to give student leadership direct access to influential service groups on campus like Parking and Transportation. Through dialogue and discussions in our meetings, I have gained valuable feedback that has directly contributed to Georgia State's services on campus. From these committee discussions, I came to realize over the past year that students need a viable way to voice their ideas for parking and transportation on campus. Through this feedback, our office created an open parking and transportation forum for students, faculty and staff. These forums are currently underway (January 11th and January 19th). The feedback forum will directly contribute to the Parking and Transportation master plan, which will shape and dramatically improve parking and transportation on campus over the next 10 years. As a re-elected Staff Senator, it will continue to be a priority to give a voice to students, faculty and staff within the service departments of Parking, Dining, PantherCard, and other important service departments on campus.

I am also a part of the Senate Cultural Diversity Committee. This high-powered committee is one of the most influential on campus. One of our many contributions include the follow up to the 2005 Climate study and refining the new climate study as well as cultural diversity studies on faculty and staff. Georgia State University is one of the most culturally diverse campuses in the country, and the work we do in this committee has not just campus-wide but global implications. Continuing to contribute to this valuable committee will also be my priority.

Which two Senate committees would you most like to serve on and why?

When I was first elected to the Senate last year filling in for Winnie's old position, my first impulse was to join the Athletics committee because I frequently work with Athletics on campus and I am familiar with the employees that work for this department. However, after a year's work with the SL&DC and the Cultural Diversity Committee, I feel there is still much to be done, and I am just now really gaining traction with these groups. Anyone that would take my place as a new senator would need a whole year to catch up to where I am now. I just feel that I am now truly starting to make an impact, and I hope to be able to continue with these two committees in the future.

Please list your service to the University:

- Georgia State University Senator 2011 to present
- Staff Council Ad-Hock Member 2011 to present
- Co-Chair of the 2009 GSU Finance and Administration Rewards and Recognition Program
- PantherWelcome Committee Member – 2007 to present

Finance and Administration Rewards and Recognition Committee – Georgia State University – 2007 to present

Of all the service projects you've been involved in, which one makes you the proudest? Describe what the group accomplished and what your role was.

As a Senator this past year, I have been a part of a lot of committee works that have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. However, my biggest service project contribution that I am most proud of at GSU has actually been outside of the Senate. As a previous Co-Chairman and annual board member of the Rewards and Recognition program for Finance and Administration, I work with others to put on one of the largest awards ceremonies on campus. It recognizes the very best staff members of the largest department of GSU staff members on campus, Finance and Administration. This project is a yearlong commitment that includes members from all over the campus including HR, facilities, and staff members from various Auxiliary units. As a Co-Chair, I was responsible for the budget, marketing, and was a large contributor to the overall execution of the event. This program has been a big contribution to Finance and Administration staff moral during a difficult time with no raises, budget cuts, and layoffs.

Is there anything else voters should know about you?

I have an undergraduate degree from the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia and a Master of Public Administration in Finance and Management from Georgia State University. I have worked at Georgia State University for over five years and was recently promoted to Director over Marketing and Administrative services for Auxiliary and Support Services. With the retirement of San Miller (my former boss), I am now the sole remaining Senator that works for our support services on campus which includes Parking and Transportation, Dining Services, PantherCard, the Rialto Center for the Arts, and other major service areas.

By submitting this application electronically or on paper, I agree that my responsibilities if elected will include:

1. Attending and participating in all University Senate meetings;
2. Attending and participating in all University Senate assignments;
3. Attending monthly Staff Council meetings and making reports of Senate activities to the council.