

UTSA STAFF COUNCIL BLAST



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www.utsa.edu/sc/

Chili's Too!

By Shannon Rios

Our on-campus dining choices just got spicier thanks to the addition of a "Chili's Too!" in the University Center! UTSA Business Auxiliary Services, partnering with ARAMARK, Facilities Services, and various contractors are proud to announce the official opening of "Chili's Too!" on February 14, 2010. There will be a grand opening with ribbon cutting on **March 9th, 2010**.

Construction has been ongoing since November 20, 2009, with the Sabinal Group as the general contractor and the design by Alvidrez and Associates.

The restaurant will be a "counter service" establishment similar to Whataburger. Customers order and pay at the counter, are given a number, and an ARAMARK employee delivers their food to their table. The establishment has approximately 180 seats as well as a to-go option for those customers who are "on the go!"

The menu is a modified Chili's menu with most of the classic items available. There will not be alcohol available at this restaurant.

We invite you to visit the Campus Dining link from the UTSA website for hours of operation and menu choices. Please take some time and visit this new and exciting addition to UTSA's already enticing variety of dining choices.



Dining Services link:

<http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSSW/UTSA>



Issues Committee Contact Form:

<http://www.utsa.edu/sc/forms/contact.cfm>



A penny saved...

If it ain't broke, don't fix it! It is very easy to get comfortable in our day to day work environments. We continue to do things the same way because that is the way "they have always been done". However, sometimes we can take a step outside and look at a process and find ways to make it better. We can cut costs, cut time, and increase efficiency if we take the time to explore new ways of doing our jobs.

Staff Council asked around to find out what offices were doing to save and streamline.

Registrar's Office: "Implementation of an online grade change process. Change of Grade Forms have been almost eliminated, except for a minimal number for graduate students and extenuating circumstances. Electronic notifications for student and staff as well as Records Staff, increases the efficiency and eliminates paperwork going from office to office and hand to hand. Turnaround

time is extremely fast for repeat issues and academic standing adjustments."

"Interactive PDF forms have been added on the website <http://www.utsa.edu/registrar/forms.html>. The benefits are that students can access these forms at their convenience, offices aren't tasked with keeping paper forms, and there are fewer clerical errors since the student types in their own information."

Academic Publications: "The amount of Undergraduate catalogs were dramatically reduced to urge the use of the electronic version. Also, through cooperation with the Visitor Center, an emphasis is now being placed on the electronic catalog to reduce the amount of print catalogs."

Graduation Coordination and the Office of Special Events: "Reduced the cost of mailing Diplomas. By reevaluating the promotional information that generally accompanied diplomas, these two offices were able to work together along with

(Career Services and Alumni Programs) to dramatically reduce the cost of postage, use of paper, and time used in preparing and inserting diploma stuffers."

The Staff Council would like to know what innovations you are using to streamline, cut costs, and increase productivity. Please send the fantastic things that you are doing to the Staff Council Communication Committee, so that we can highlight your contributions to our UTSA in the Blast. By sharing ideas and working together, we can continue to improve functions, save money, and provide a better service to our students, alumni and community.

Staff Council Communication Committee:

Shannon Rios (Chair)
Ginnifer Cié Gee
Anne Macintosh Speights
Mark Munguia
Eric Cooper

Shelley Underbrink
Patricia Morehead
Michael Witzel
Gregory Frieden
Shirley Rowe

EAC - Employee Advisory Council

By Shirley Rowe

Did You Know?

The University of Texas System Employee Advisory Council (EAC) is an advisory group representing each of the 15 UT components that works with, and on behalf of, The University of Texas System. The mission of the EAC is to provide a forum for communicating ideas and information between employees, the Board of Regents, and the Executive Officers of UT System. UTSA has two representatives, Shirley Rowe and Sarah Gonzales, who attend advisory council meetings, benchmark and communicate with peers and other components then present the findings to the UTSA management team. Each year the offices of the EAC meets with the Board of Regents to present information and make recommendations regarding issues of importance to the employees of UT System.

This calendar year, the EAC has decided to benchmark a wide variety of programs currently in place at the component institutions revolving around Wellness Initiatives, Work-Life Programs, Recruitment and Retention Issues and Policies and Procedures. The results will be compiled and reviewed at their March 2010 meeting with the Best Practices being publicized and shared in July. A final report will then be made to the Board of Regents in November 2010.

For more information, please contact **Shirley Rowe** or view the EAC website:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/eac/homepage.htm>