



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF November 15, 2007

The third regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2007-2008 academic year was held at the Durango Building Southwest Room, at the Downtown Campus at 9:00 a.m., with Sarah Gonzales, Chair, presiding.

Call to Order

Members present: Paula Castillo, Allegra Castro, Brad Chandler, Gwendolyn Drake, Patti Dunn, Carol Gonzalez, Sarah Gonzales, Brent League, Alegra Lozano, Cece Ortegon, Cindy Orth, Derrick Ozuna, Sharron Pacheco, Elba Ramos, Susan Sandoval, Jennifer Storm, Lisa Talcott, Melissa Tenberg, Andrea Watts, Todd Wollenzier.

Members absent: Carlita Contreras (excused), Sally Crouser (excused), Roy Garza, Steve Hemphill (excused), Sherry Lindsey (excused), Shirley Rowe (excused), Maria Roberts (excused), Dee Russell-Terrell (excused), Frank Segura (excused), Anne Speights (excused), Amy Strong, Brenda Tamayo (excused), Cissy Thorpe (excused), Donna Ware.

Minutes of the November 15, 2007 Meeting Approved with Changes

Introductory Remarks by the Chair

Overview of meeting agenda items. Reminder next meeting in December is the festive holiday meeting, sign up sheet is available. Meeting notes from October meeting reviewed, accepted, and approved as presented. Greeting with direct introduction of guest speaker.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Guest speaker Dr. Sandra Welch, Vice Provost for Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness, presented information on UTSA's Strategic Plan, "UTSA 2016." Currently, UTSA is in the how to implement phase, in which committee members are looking into how to move UTSA into the next decade to become a premier research institution. Detailed information can be found on the website at: <http://www.utsa.edu/strategicplan/>.

- The committee has been & will continue to meet with groups on and off campus to gain input.
- The mission and goal of learning is through teaching, research/discovery, and engagement.
- UT system has already taken some parts of UTSA's plan out to others to share ideas.
- Regents are placing heavy emphasis on research, to develop and educate undergraduate students to be prepared for master's work.

- Team 2016 is an oversight group/committee, not meant for implementation, in which VP's and Deans are tasked in developing own strategic plan to incorporate with Dr. Romo's plan. This is due at the end of Fall 07 semester.
- Dr. Romo is looking for "worker bee" individuals interested in being involved in his plan by helping to "break down the silos," i.e., to create teamwork and help foster communication across the units. Dr. Welch has asked that anyone interested, speak with their supervisors to inquire how to be involved.

The UTSA 2016 plan incorporates 5 Strategic Initiatives and Goals:

1. Enriching education experiences to enable student success
2. Serving Society through creativity, expanded research, and innovations
3. Promoting access and affordability
4. Serving the public through community engagement
5. Expanding resources and infrastructure

UTSA's strategic team is already working on implementing ideas & concepts to meet these goals. Refer to the website for more detailed information: : <http://www.utsa.edu/strategicplan/> .

Old Business

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee: Reminder, Staff Council group picture is scheduled for next meeting. The committee is working on posting the new meeting minutes on the website, as well as linking the Staff Council website to the UTSA employee website in two places. The Staff Council story will run with the new council picture. Chair Gwen announced she is resigning from the council, but has been working on a vision statement for the council, "Your voice for an employer of choice." A new Chair of the committee was discussed, issue was tabled until next meeting. Recommendations welcome.

Elections Committee: no report.

By-Laws Committee: Committee is working to meet to review proposed changes and the process to make those changes. Anyone wanting to suggest changes to by-laws or wanting to serve on by-laws committee contact either Fred or Sarah.

Fundraising Committee: Committee was approached about selling water at December commencement, committee will stay with participating in Spring commencement only. A notice will be sent to Dr. Graham.

Issues Committee: Committee is waiting on issues still coming in to work on access concerns. Committee proposed format change to have items numbered with an extended format to avoid duplicating issues. Committee posed discussion of issues being posted on website.

New Business

- Election of Chair of Communication Committee tabled until next meeting.
- December meeting is the holiday meeting, members can sign up to bring food, drinks or paper goods. Email Secretary to sign-up.
- Email Secretary for updates and/or changes to staff directory, and if you need a new tent card.
- Member suggested advertising scholarships early, starting in November, as a reminder to students to start applying early. Members are looking into how early scholarships are taken, and if HR can include announcements in the new employee development.

Next Meeting

December 13, 2007, in the Recreation Center Studio Rowdy, at the 1604 Campus.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes prepared by Alegra Lozano, Secretary/Historian.