



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF September 25, 2008

The first regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2008-2009 academic year was held at the Recreation Center Texas Room at the 1604 Campus at 8:30 a.m., with Shirley Rowe, Chair, presiding.

Call to Order

Members present: Julie Brunts, Allegra Castro, Carolyn Cochran, Sally Crouser, Robert J. Garza, Pat Hedelius, Scott Kabrich, Brent League, Sherry Lindsey, Rene Lopez, Alegra Lozano, Mary McNair, Bob Miller, Patricia Morehead, Cindy Orth, Sharron Pacheco, Shirley Rowe, Anne Speights, Lisa Talcott, Brenda Tamayo, Suzette Vallejo, Donna Ware, Andrea Watts, Venetta Williams, Todd Wollenzier.

Members absent: Paula Castillo, Belinda Dovalina, Israel Falcon (excused), Grace Fouts, Thomas Harper (excused), Cheryl Nunn (excused), Elba Ramos (excused), Corinne Sabo (excused), Frank Segura (excused).

Motion made to accept July and August meeting minutes. Motion seconded and approved with changes.

New Business

- Election of Staff Council Executive Officers:
 - Vice Chair: Robert J Garza, motion made, seconded, and approved.
 - Secretary: Suzette Vallejo, motion made, seconded, and approved.
 - Parliamentarian: Todd Wollenzier, motion made, seconded, and approved.

Staff Council Chair's proposal of new committees:

- Scholarship Committee: proposal to create sub committee to take on some of the responsibilities and duties previously housed in the Fundraising Committee such as tracking, advertising, contacting recipients for pictures and stories. Motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Employee Educational Benefit Committee: the committee will be tasked with understanding, tracking, and publicizing the current educational benefit. Motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Employee Perks Committee: the committee will be tasked with gathering information about local business perks for UTSA employees (ex: UTSA employees get a discount at Bass Pro-Shop, AT&T Cellular, etc). Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Election of Committee Chairs:

- By-Laws Committee: Elba Ramos, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Communications Committee: Scott Kabrich, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Elections Committee: Cindy Orth, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Employee Educational Benefit Committee: Andrea Watts, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Employee Perks Committee: Rene Lopez, motion made, seconded, and approved.

- Fundraising Committee: Cindy Orth, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Issues Committee: Pat Hedelius, motion made, seconded, and approved.
- Scholarships Committee: Anne Speights, motion made, seconded, and approved.

Committee sign-up sheet was distributed. Any absent Staff Council members wanting to participate on a committee will need to contact the designated Committee Chair.

Employee Advisory Board

The UT System Board meets three times per year. The next meeting is October 16th and 17th at UTSA. The UT System brings issues to the Board of Regents for discussion. The Staff Council chair opened the floor for issues:

- Facilities and Operations: UTSA does not pay night differentiation, and employees have the choice of either hazard or longevity pay (not both). The question posed was, why not both? It was noted that it's a legal issue. According to State law, hazard pay is only for Peace Officers.
- The issue was brought forth regarding partner benefits and non-discrimination.
- A statement was made regarding the possibility of mileage reimbursement for those employees who work at the downtown campus and have to continuously travel to the 1604 campus.
- A comment to readdress the personal wellness benefit in which employees are allowed time during their working hours to exercise.
- A suggestion was made to restructure the annual evaluation from a three tier to a five tier for more individualized assessment and feedback. This is already being looked into by UTSA.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee: tabled until the next meeting. The committee is looking for feedback and suggestions regarding the current by-laws. All suggestions should be sent to the committee Chair.

Communication Committee: the committee is researching ways to update the system and server for the website.

Elections Committee: the committee is looking at how the new electronic election process worked, and is researching feedback to see what improvements can be made for the future.

Fundraising Committee: the Entertainment Book had to go through another legal review; the committee is expecting a decision soon. The books are expected to be in by next week.

Issues Committee: the committee is planning to meet soon. Issues the committee is currently researching:

- The bus stop in lot 3 is in front of a turn lane, causes traffic build up, and does not have weather protection.
- Downtown bus stops also do not have weather protection. Their usage was questioned, as well as a concern that number 94 does not stop by the downtown campus.
- A concern was brought forth regarding smoking on campus, and those who do not abide by the 20 ft rule.
- Facilities: there is not parking for UTSA service vehicles in the back of the University Center. The downtown campus only has two service vehicles in use that are roadworthy.

- A question was posed as to who is responsible for the location, placement, and purchase of the bike racks on campus. In this economic time of high gas prices there are more individuals riding bikes, and there are not enough bike racks on campus. Bikes are being chained all over the campus (railings, trees, etc) and are blocking several office doors around the University Center.
- Downtown crosswalk on Frio Street: the curb at the end of the block does not have handicap access. The crosswalk is a dangerous place in which one student was already injured by a car.

Treasurer: working on expense information and will have something ready for next meeting.

Other announcements:

- SECC starts October 1st, and the Talent Show is Friday, October 24th, from 2-4pm.

Next Meeting

October 23, 2008, 8:30am-10:30am, in the Texas Room, 1604 Campus Recreation Center.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Alegra Lozano, Staff Council Secretary/Historian