Each year, the UTSA Staff Council welcomes new and returning members from each of the eight areas including six Vice Presidential areas. In September, the previous year’s Vice Chair takes the helm as Chair. This year, I am privileged to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of the UTSA Staff Council. In addition, I am pleased to have Justin Bingham from Student Financial Aid and Enrollment Services as our Vice Chair, Shannon Rios from Graduation Initiative as our Secretary, and Manuel Maldonado from the Office of P-20 Initiatives as our Parliamentarian.

This year is already off to a great start. The Council recently passed a motion to make staffcouncil@utsa.edu the official means of communication with the Staff Council. This email will be regularly monitored so that we are able to stay in touch with our constituents. We hope that you will contact us with any comments or concerns. As always, if there is a specific issue that you would like the Staff Council Issues Committee to look into you can also submit these through our website’s Contact and Suggestion form at http://www.utsa.edu/sc/forms/contact.cfm.

The members continue to nominate individuals or departments to receive the UTSA Staff Council Appreciation Award. So keep an eye out, you never know when you or your team might be nominated.

The Staff Council hopes that you and your families have a most blessed and wonderful holiday season and we thank you for allowing us to be YOUR VOICE!

Gregory L. Frieden, M.A.
WHAT IS STAFF COUNCIL?

Staff Council is an advisory body through which eligible staff members may convey information and make recommendations to the President regarding interests, suggestions, and concerns. Staff Council serves as the voice of the UTSA staff.

Did you know that Staff Council is more than 10 years old? Created in 1999, Staff Council is charged by the President and by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System with the goal of continually improving university operations and the well being of UTSA’s staff. Every staff area of UTSA has a representative on Staff Council.

Members are nominated and elected by their fellow employees to serve two year terms. The members of Staff Council then serve on internal committees which strive to provide service, support, and a voice for you, the UTSA staff member.

Let’s make this a great year together!

Issues Committee
Contact Form:
http://utsa.edu/sc/forms/contact.cfm

STAFF COUNCIL TO AWARD $2,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STAFF

Each year, Staff Council raises money through numerous fundraisers to generate scholarship funds for the staff community at UTSA whom are interested in furthering their education.

All benefits-eligible Classified, Administrative & Professional employees who are enrolled in at least 3 hours of coursework are encouraged to apply for our annual scholarship. Each year we award 4 scholarships: Two for qualified employees pursuing undergraduate degrees, $500 each and two for qualified employees pursuing graduate degrees, $500 each.

The application for the 2013/2014 Academic Year is available now and the deadline for applying is February 15, 2013. There is an essay requirement, so hone your writing skills to compete for these scholarships. You can apply for this scholarship by visiting http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships/

SAVE THE DATE
Strikes For Scholarships
MARCH 4, 2013
UNIVERSITY BOWL

Registration begins January 22nd. Details to follow.

Donate anytime to our Staff Council Scholarship Fund by visiting https://giving.utsa.edu/

Celebrate the holidays with President Ricardo & Dr. Harriett Romo
at a breakfast for faculty, staff & student leaders

Tuesday, December 4, 2012
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
University Center Ballroom, UC 1.104
UTSA Main Campus

Participate in the UTSA Holiday Food Drive
Nonperishable food items for the UTSA Holiday Food Drive benefiting the San Antonio Food Bank will be collected at the breakfast. Boxed and canned goods can be dropped off; however, please do not donate items in glass containers.
STAFF COUNCIL APPRECIATION AWARD

Each month the members of the UTSA Staff Council nominate either an individual or an entire department to receive the UTSA Staff Council Appreciation Award. This is an opportunity for the Staff Council to thank those on campus who “Exemplify professionalism through staff involvement as an integral part of serving our UTSA community”. For the month of September Facilities—Research Zone was the honoree.

The following staff members were very deserving: Supervisor, Justin Lowe, Leader Ed Celaya, Joseph Bromm, Brian Silver, Mark Edsall, Manuel Zuniga, Jose Arredondo, Roland Douglas, James Robisheaux, Robert Lozano, Albert Parvin, Kevin Cooley, Mario Canales, Ed Celaya, Adam Plocica and Carlos Morales.

Here is what their nominator had to say about them: “I want to express my utmost appreciation to the Facilities O&M Research Zone team and all their work that they do for UTSA. I have seen this team work hard and efficiently together to make sure that UTSA is continuously running to its full capacity. These men define the word “TEAMWORK”; they are always at hand in assisting each other, especially when it is in an area that may not be in their field of expertise. I have seen this team assist other teams in emergencies and in guidance in job service when a helping hand is needed. The O&M Research Zone team are excellent customer service representatives for UTSA, who are well-mannered in their demeanor, respective to their surroundings during construction and clean-up, and patient when customers begin to vent their issues about something that needs to be addressed. These men are kind enough to take the time to listen to customers and always have an enthusiastic personality when interacting with all university faculty, staff, and students. They have worked after hours many times to help contain emergencies and make sure that the campus is restored and running smoothly. They also are willing to stay late and finish projects in order to make sure the completion is on time. I have personally seen this team take the time to review and discuss matters and concerns and develop a variety of different solutions that will best control an issue. The O&M Research Zone have demonstrated that they are professional, well-organized and an adaptable group of gentleman that have devoted time and energy into making UTSA thrive as an up and coming tier one university.”

![Research Zone Team](image1.jpg)
The Colleges Freshman Advising Center was the honoree for November.

The following staff members were very deserving: Joan Tsacalis, Dainon Deviney, Elizabeth Silence, Amanda Garcia, Donna Ware, Gabe Rosas, Jade Martinez, John Grogan, Julie Fisher, Matt Keneson, Marshall Uhlig, Miranda Swain, Myrna Perez, Sharis Slocum, Tamika James, Valerie Acosta, Vanessa Davalos-Ledesma, Jennifer Uranga, Nancy Bendele, Joey Jackson, LJ Fontenot, David Davis, Leonardo Mejia

Here is what their nominator had to say about them: “I would like to nominate the Colleges’ Freshman Advising Center (CFAC) for the Staff Council Appreciation Award. The CFAC is the largest advising center on campus, serving approximately 5,500 students. This population includes students with declared majors, those who are undeclared within a college and students participating in the UT Coordinated Admission Program. Each summer, the CFAC staff works with incoming freshmen to ensure they begin their college career on the right track. During Summer 2012, the CFAC advised 4,600 students. The CFAC is comprised of 23 total staff members, which includes fourteen professional advisors, a director, an associate director, a senior administrative associate, an administrative assistant, and five work study students.

Not only does the CFAC advise students, but members of the office coordinate and support numerous outreach programs throughout the year designed to improve student success, such as MidTerm Maintenance, Sophomore Day, and Classroom Outreach. Due to the large and diverse population served by the CFAC, the staff must be informed on information relating to all Academic Colleges, and to the campus as a whole. Each advisor serves as a liaison to one of the academic colleges, and many stay in communication with various Student Affairs offices, as well. By attending meetings and working closely with other advising centers and offices, the CFAC is able to disseminate the most current information regarding policies and procedure or academic changes.

The CFAC believes it is important to prepare students for the transition to their college advising center at 30 hours, so they seek to explain what the student can expect as they move on in their college careers. Frequently the CFAC provides introductory information to students regarding protocols in place at the college advising centers, and provides information to the college advising centers about the CFAC student population. The Colleges’ Freshman Advising Center goes above and beyond to provide all campus constituents with the best possible experience when working together.