



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF December 15, 2005

The fourth regular meeting of the Staff Council for the academic year 2005-2006 was held in the Durango Building Southwest Room at 8:30 a.m. with Cindy Orth presiding.

I. Call to order.

Members present: Stephanie Barlow, Kim Brandt, Veronica Cortez, Lachelle Dixon, Patti Dunn, Nancy Ekstrom, Maria Espericueta, Janie Garcia, Amie Guerrero, Elvira Jacquez, Blanca Muniz, Belinda Munoz, Carmen Ortegón, Cindy Orth, Derrick Ozuna, Trish Roberts, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Billy Simmons, Anne Speights, Rosalinda Stead, Melissa Tenberg, Velma Tristan, Steve Wagner

Members absent: Chris Chipps (excused), Sharon Cropper, Edna Dominguez, Laurie Gay, Sabina Kapoor, Minnie Martinez, Rachel Pullen, Lori Zerr (excused)

II. Potluck breakfast.

III. Minutes of the November 17, 2005, meeting were reviewed and approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Cindy Orth gave details on a recent University Assembly meeting:

- i. At that meeting, President Ricardo Romo gave an overview of the UTSA mater plan, discussing student retention, enrollment statistics and plans for growth. President Romo said that our enrollment status is five years ahead of original plans, causing a space deficiency that needs to be addressed by legislature.
- ii. University Assembly members were excited that Staff Council is seeking to raise funds for scholarships for staff.
- iii. President Romo agreed to host a breakfast for us at our January meeting.
- iv. President Romo has agreed to additionally fund Staff Council, pending a written proposal.

V. New Business

A. Call for nominations to replace the By-Laws Committee Chair:

- i. Steve Wagner will be Chair, with Anne Speights as Co-Chair.

B. Call for nominations to replace the Communications Committee Chair:

- i. Rosalinda Stead will be Chair, with Dee Russell-Terrell as Co-Chair.

- C. Melissa Tenberg proposed that we provide committee reports at our next meeting, to give the president and vice president guests with an overview of Staff Council. These reports should be sent to Cindy Orth for distribution to the university executives.
 - D. Cindy Orth brought forth a parking-related issue that one staff member had posed: While the 1604, downtown and ITC campuses must pay parking fees, is it fair that the University Heights component does not have to? Cindy Orth plans to invite the new Director of Parking & Transportation to a future Staff Council meeting, where issues such as this may be addressed. In addition, this issue generated the following other questions during Staff Council:
 - i. Since Student A & B Parking sections were transformed into one Student Parking, can Faculty/Staff A & B be combined similarly?
 - ii. Some parking rates have increased dramatically. Is this fair to those who, when the rates were first introduced, paid the original prices with the hopes of supporting UTSA's growth but who now are finding that their willingness to pay is being countered by a trend of raising costs?
- VI. Staff Council Committee Reports
- A. Employee Benefits/Compensation Committee, with Veronica Cortez as Chair:
 - i. This committee has been discussing differences amongst various health benefits. They have worked to compare differences between benefits between other institutions.
 - ii. This committee is encouraging the other Staff Council members to solicit benefits concerns from our respective areas and to forward those concerns to the benefits committee.
 - B. Communications Committee, with Elvira Jacquez as Chair
 - i. A test version of the revamped Staff Council website is online, and this will be brought to us for our review.
 - ii. Also, it may be necessary to re-design our Staff Council oak leaf logo. After Cindy Orth gave the history of the logo – how the strong oak trees that surround UTSA are a symbol of the unity and strength of the UTSA staff – we discussed the kind of logo that can best represent us. We voted to adopt a version of the new logo with the oak leaf enclosed within a circle and not lying flat. We may want to add a motto as well.

- C. Elections/Membership Committee, with Dee Russell-Terrell as Chair: This group will meet soon to discuss elections and memberships.
 - D. Fund Raising Committee, with Melissa Tenberg as Chair: This committee has been discussing fundraising ideas with the Development office. One idea is to sell tickets for various sports events. Website donations are also a possibility.
 - E. Bylaws Committee: This committee will meet soon to discuss bylaws.
- VII. Next meeting: January 26, 2006, in the Regent's Room (Main Building, third floor), at 8:30 a.m.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned.