



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF June 22, 2006

The tenth regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2005-2006 academic year was held in the Recreation Center Studio Blue (1604 Campus) at 8:30 a.m., with Cindy Orth presiding.

I. Call to Order

Members present: Stefanie Barlow, Chris Chipps, Veronica Cortez, Sharon Cropper, Edna Dominguez, Maria Espericueta, Janie Garcia, Belinda Munoz, CeCe Ortegon, Cindy Orth, Derrick Ozuna, Rachel Pullen, Trish Roberts, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Corinne Sabo, Anne Speights, Melissa Tenberg, Velma Tristan, Maria Villarreal, Steve Wagner, Lori Zerr

Members absent: Kim Brandt (excused), Lachelle Dixon (excused), Patti Dunn (excused), Laurie Gay, Sabina Kapoor (excused), Minnie Martinez, Blanca Muniz, Nina Sosa (excused), Rosalinda Stead (excused)

II. Minutes of the May 25, 2006 Meeting Reviewed & Approved

III. Opening Remarks

A story about the Staff Council scholarship has been published on the *UTSAToday* website.

IV. Old Business

Issues Committee questions from previous meetings will be addressed during our July 2006 meeting.

Regarding dangerous crosswalks at the 1604 campus, there has been a discussion with the University Police. They have said that accidents have increased in the Business Building/Lot 3 area, and there are discussions about applying speed bumps in this area.

Regarding the possibility for increasing the amount of graded categories on the new employee annual evaluation forms, consultants are currently reviewing this.

Regarding the Downtown Campus Recreation Center hours, which have been shortened due to lack of student use, this issue is currently being discussed among upper administration.

The UTSA HR Forum met, and one point of discussion was that there is a lack of formal communication at UTSA.

V. New Business

We voted and agreed that we will move our July 27 meeting to July 26, we will have our August meeting on August 10 (this will be a potluck), and we will no longer order refreshments from our normal caterer.

We voted for Belinda Munoz and Dee Russell-Terrell to represent us as Staff Council Marshals during the Fall convocation ceremony, with Shirley Rowe and Sharon Cropper serving as alternates.

There have been concerns about pay increases due to higher costs of living, putting in more work hours, increases in insurance premiums, increases in parking fees and salary flatlines. The Texas legislature would be the governing body that would approve any pay increases, however. Merit increases of 3% will be applied this year, at the discretion of University employees' departments. Any merit increase concerns may be forwarded to representatives in the Texas legislature.

Where do UTFlex benefits go if they do not carry over into the next year? Whatever is not used is lost, per an IRS code. The Benefits workshop that is offered may assist with answering additional UTFlex questions.

Next year, the Staff Council Annual Scholarship will be reviewed by way of the UTSA General Scholarship application. It is possible to have more than two scholarships awarded in future years. We are checking into being able to set up a web-based donations process on our website.

VI. Committee Reports

Employee Benefits/Compensation Committee, with Veronica Cortez as Chair: Focusing research on training, professional development, reclassification processes and career ladders. Have temporarily shelved discussions of FMLA and workers' compensation issues, as they are applied in the same ways UT System-wide.

Communications Committee, with Rosalinda Stead as Chair: A Staff Council article will be written; this may address elections, the work we have done to benefit scholarships, and our scholarship application.

Elections/Membership Committee, with Dee Russell-Terrell as Chair: Worked in an assembly line process, along with other Staff Council volunteers, to process the distribution of nomination forms for our summer election process. Work will continue in July when the elections ballots are processed. There is a concern as to how we will handle the nominee sorting, as various employees are in the process of being moved to a different vice presidential area on campus; we will discuss at our next meeting whether or not to write a guideline in our bylaws to address these kinds of shifts.

Fund Raising Committee, with Melissa Tenberg as Chair: This group plans to meet in July to discuss how to raise funds for the December commencement ceremonies. May look into outside solicitation. Currently writing thank-you notes to the Forresters organization, which donated the original funds for our annual scholarship.

Bylaws Committee, with Steve Wagner as Chair: Research will be made into retrieving past bylaws for editing.

VII. Next Meeting

July 26, 2006 in the Durango Building Southwest Room, at the Downtown Campus.
Note this is a Wednesday.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned