



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF October 26, 2006

The second regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2006-2007 academic year was held in the Recreation Center Studio Blue at the 1604 Campus at 8:30 a.m., with Patti Dunn, Chair, presiding.

Call to Order

Members present: Marlon Anderson, Stefanie Barlow, Kim Brandt, Bradley Chandler, Veronica Cortez, Sharon Cropper, Patti Dunn, Kim Ellicks-Center, Maria Espericueta, Janie Garcia, Roy Garza, Sarah Gonzales, Carol Gonzalez, Sabina Kapoor, CeCe Ortegon, Cindy Orth, Derrick Ozuna, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Nina Sosa, Amy Strong, Melissa Tenberg, Cissy Thorpe, Velma Tristan

Members absent (*all excused*): Carlita Contreras, Laurie Gay, Neva Hughes, Minnie Martinez, Belinda Munoz, Rachel Pullen, Susan Sandoval, Anne Speights, Maria Villarreal, Lori Zerr

Minutes of the September 28, 2006 Meeting Reviewed & Approved With Corrections

Presentation by David Kapalko, Director of Parking & Transportation Services

We currently do not have the equipment or personnel to establish shuttle service to the University Heights location, but there has been an increase in overall shuttle usage this fall. For Fall 2007, parking will be disrupted by Laurel Village and University Center III expansions, and so shuttle services will need to increase.

Looking in to vendors who may work nights for stripe-painting.

Working to improve web communications, for incidents such as Via bus route changes. Also working to compile all maps into a central website location.

For those part-time employees who would like full-time "B" parking privileges to accommodate for odd-hour work projects, a movement to make a policy change would first have to be made.

Formed a focus group to discuss visitor parking protocol, and have determined that "official visitors" will be singularly able to obtain this kind of parking, not including those enrolled in classes or working paid job positions. For Downtown Campus visitor parking, notification should be made to the Parking office in advance of a visitor's arrival.

Permit costs are rising due to construction costs, but higher violation fines may offset additional permit cost rises.

Departments should contact Parking if they will be bringing special groups onto campus that may take up parking spaces, to coordinate so that no one group monopolizes any lots.

Report of the Employee Advisory Council by Cindy Orth

The EAC's committees are now ad hoc, issues-driven committees. Of importance are strategic planning issues, employee education benefit issues, grievance issues (including the possibility of staff ombudsperson positions), and issues of how longevity affects the benefits eligibility for staff members' dependents.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, with Sabina Kapoor as Chair: Preparing for committee meetings.

Employee Benefits/Compensation Committee, with Veronica Cortez as Chair: Looking into educational benefits issues. Created a spreadsheet to organize all recent benefits-related concerns. Looking into the fact that some staff members are keeping their same titles but are taking on new job duties.

Elections/Membership Committee, with Dee Russell-Terrell as Chair: Preparing for committee meetings.

Bylaws Committee, with Lori Zerr as Chair: Preparing for committee meetings.

Fundraising Committee, with Melissa Tenberg as Chair: Looking into selling for the December 14, 15 and 16 commencement ceremonies. Will consider making a proposal for extra funds to keep as reserves for future fundraising investments. Will also consider off-campus or joint-program work for raising funds. Staff Council voted and agreed to make sales at the commencement ceremonies.

Issues Committee Report, with Shirley Rowe as Chair

Regarding the five-day turnaround requirement for employee responses to written reprimands, we agreed to not follow up with proposing a change to this, since HR has found that this procedure has been successful and has yielded little criticism.

Regarding signage changes for the HSS building, Facilities is looking into this.

Regarding whether or not the cashing of checks should be a re-established practice on campus, it was understood by the Council that technology changes have moved the University into new ways of providing cash debits, reducing a heavy need for follow-up of this issue.

Regarding creating more walking trails on campus, we will research this further.

Regarding the quality of education now that teaching by graduate students is more prevalent, this will be promoted to the Employee Advisory Council for research and measured studies.

Regarding the perceived lack of communication or health-focused meals at the Downtown Campus cafeteria, the Chartwell's organization is becoming more vocal and offering different options now. We will research this further.

Next Meeting

November 16, 2006, in the Recreation Center Studio Blue, at the 1604 Campus.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes prepared by Derrick Ozuna, Secretary/Historian