



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**  
**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**March 29, 2007**

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

**Call to Order**

Members present: Bradley Chandler, Veronica Cortez, Sharon Cropper, Patti Dunn, Maria Espericueta, Sarah Gonzales, Carol Gonzalez, Belinda Munoz, Derrick Ozuna, Rachel Pullen, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Susan Sandoval, Nina Sosa, Anne Speights, Melissa Tenberg, Cissy Thorpe, Velma Tristan, Maria Villarreal, Todd Wollenzier

Members absent: Marlon Anderson (excused), Stefanie Barlow (excused), Carlita Contreras, Gwendolyn Drake, Kim Ellicks-Center (represented by proxy), Janie Garcia (excused), Roy Garza (excused), Laurie Gay (excused), Sabina Kapoor (excused), Minnie Martinez, CeCe Ortegon (excused), Cindy Orth (excused), Amy Strong

**Minutes of the February 22, 2007, Meeting Approved with Changes**

**NCAA Athletics Self-Study Program Topics, Presented by Suzy Gray & James Sarra**

UTSA's Athletics program is seeking Division I recertification. To help with this, there is currently a year-long campus-wide effort in place, which will emphasize NCAA compliance awareness, self-assessment, stakeholder input and peer reviews.

Athletics is requesting the input and observations from Staff Council, for any comments or concerns.

One concern is to review Athletics' approaches of communications with various academic advising staff members. This is important to advisors because of work on the retention of student-athletes.

**Report of the Employee Advisory Council Meeting, Presented by Patti Dunn**

The first major subcommittee is working towards changes in the employee tuition reimbursement system. A request has been made to increase this tuition reimbursement. Also requested is the possibility of allowing employees to use this reimbursement towards an education at other UT institutions.

The second major subcommittee is working towards grievances processes and the possibility of hiring a staff ombudsperson for each UT System component. Concerns have arisen regarding the employee status for such an ombudsperson.

When addressing UTSA's current strategic plan, looking into ways the plan can be more equitable for all staff and looking into implementing career paths. Creating a standardized hiring practices system for all employees, to include reviewing personable skills, may also be advantageous.

A legislative bill is being considered which calls for a 2.5% cost-of-living increase for state staff.

There is a discussion at the state level in which all UT System components would be placed under one single insurance program. Along with this comes the possibility of higher insurance rates.

Retirement issues are also being discussed. There is the possibility that, upon a state employee's return to the workforce, his or her retirement benefits may be halted. Discussions are also being held regarding possibilities of cutting retirement benefits or only offering them for a limited time.

### **New Business**

We discussed the question of having an on-campus physician for University staff, but this may be problematic since student fees currently cover University medical equipment. We will review this further.

We voted to sell 12-oz. bottles of water for our commencement sales in May, even though the price of the water has gone up slightly.

### **Committee Reports**

Bylaws Committee, with Cindy Orth as Chair: Preparing for committee meetings.

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

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

Employee Benefits/Compensation Committee, with Veronica Cortez as Chair: Longevity benefits issue for part-timers has been tabled since governmental regulations do not specifically address part-time employees as being eligible. Looking into bus-pass access to use the VIA bus system.

Fundraising Committee, with Melissa Tenberg as Chair: The link for donating is currently live on our website. Looking into additional fundraising opportunities, such as coupon books or handheld fans. Looking into possible locations for a silent auction.

Issues Committee Report, with Shirley Rowe as Chair: Why does the downtown campus only accept UTSACards for purchases of software? The downtown Student Activities office is currently conducting a risk assessment to determine the feasibility of changing this procedure to mirror the policy at 1604.

**Next Meeting**

April 26, 2007, in the Recreation Center Studio Blue, at the 1604 Campus.

**Meeting Adjourned**

*Minutes prepared by Derrick Ozuna, Secretary/Historian*