The first regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2012-2013 academic year was held at the UTSA main campus in the Mesquite Room and was called to order at 8:35 a.m. with Chair Gregory Frieden presiding.

Members present:

Members absent (excused):
Victoria Cruz, Richard Wollney

Members absent (unexcused):
Robin Diamond, John McGee

Meeting Minutes:
August meeting minutes were approved via e-mail.

Introductions:
Staff Council members introduced themselves by name and department.

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Sandy Welch, Vice Provost for Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness, spoke with us about the GRIP (Graduation Rate Improvement Plan).

- Handout provided with GRIP initiatives that involve staff highlighted
- PowerPoint presentation will be sent to Gregory and then distributed to the group
- All GRIP initiatives will be in place by 2016
- The goal is a 4 year graduation rate of 25% for the entering cohort of 2021
- Some statistics given about students who take less hours are less likely to graduate and students who take 15 or more hours per semester have the highest rates of graduation
- CAP students (UT Austin Coordinated Admissions Program)
  - The CAP program will be phased out over the next 3 years
- Admission standards
  - Standards have been raised slightly over the last several years and will continue to rise through Fall 2013
  - Holistic review for applicants who do not meet standards
- Transfer students
  - Required GPA for admission raised for fall 2013 to 2.25
  - This group does not count in the graduation rate but looked at separately
  - Becoming a national conversation
- Culture shift
  - Will be necessary to shift the entire campus culture to make this plan successful
- Fixed Tuition at peer campuses
  - UTSA is not considering this right now and is considering other financial incentives instead
- Peer institutions having multiple campuses
  - When UTSA chose who its peer institutions were, multiple campuses was not a major criteria in the equation

Dr. Welch invited anyone who is interested in being a part of the GRIP Team to contact her directly. Any further questions should be directed to Dr. Welch.

Plaque Presentation:
The Staff Council presented Shirley Rowe with a plaque in recognition of her dedicated service to the Staff Council and to the Employee Advisory Council. Chair Gregory Frieden presented Shirley the plaque, read the inscription to the group and said a
few words. Shirley also spoke, encouraging Staff Council members to get involved and make their voices heard. She thanked us for recognizing her.

Nominations and Elections:
No nominations came in prior to the meeting so all nominations were either self-nominations or from the floor.

- **Vice Chair**
  - Jenny Jung self-nominated.
  - Justin Bingham was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination.
  - Eric Cooper was nominated from the floor but declined the nomination.
  - Both candidates said a few words about why they want to serve as Vice Chair.
  - A ballot vote was collected and tabulated yielding Justin Bingham as Vice Chair.

- **Secretary**
  - Shannon Rios was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination.
  - Christine Bachman was nominated from the floor but denied the nomination.
  - Oral vote yielded Shannon Rios as Secretary.

- **Parliamentarian**
  - Christine Bachman self-nominated.
  - Manuel Maldonado was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination.
  - Both candidates said a few words about why they want to serve as Parliamentarian.
  - A ballot vote was collected and tabulated yielding Manuel Maldonado as Parliamentarian.

SECC Presentation:
Chair Gregory Frieden spoke about the SECC Campaign. The official kick off is Monday, October 1, 2012. He encouraged everyone to come to the kick-off event. Twenty-five percent of the total giving in San Antonio last year was from UTSA. He encouraged us to try and beat that number this year. He showed the group the charity directory. He also shared his own story of giving. Staff Council members were encouraged to find out who their Area Champion is and be on the look-out for e-mails and flyers on upcoming SECC events. There will not be a talent show as in years past.

New Business:
- Fall Blast Newsletter Ideas
  - Officer Introduction
  - Reminders of upcoming events
  - Any other ideas should be sent to either Gregory or Shannon
- Committee Explanation and Sign-up
  - Members are required to serve on at least one committee
  - Sign-up sheets were placed at the back of the room
  - Committees should elect chairs by October meeting
- State of the University Address
  - Wednesday, October 3rd at 3:00pm
  - Staff Council will have a designated seating area so members are encouraged to attend
- Strikes for Scholarships event
  - Monday, March 4, 2013

Announcements:
Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 8:30am in the Mesquite Room (UC 2.01.24).

Meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. for the group picture by the fireplace.

Minutes submitted by Shannon Rios, Staff Council Secretary