The eighth, regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2015-2016 year was held on Main Campus in the Willow Room (UC 2.02.12). The meeting was called to order at 8:36am with Forrest Wilson, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, presiding.

**Members Present:** Liza Barrera, Diana Cisneros, Richard Garza, Liliana Gomez, Brian Jantz, Lisa Johns, Ryan Key, Linda Martinez, Annie Maynes, Lisa Merritt, Irene Mireles, Mitch Moore, Cindy Orth, Vincent Perez, Elisa Perkins, Yolanda Williams, Taniesa Williams, Forrest Wilson, Elisha Reynolds

**Members Absent (Excused):** Valentino DeLeon, Benjamin Garrison, KC Gonzalez, Matthew Jackson, Amanda Marin, Joe Nelson, Anne Peters, Shannon Rios, Kathryn Sanchez, Eric Weber, Venetta Williams, Alfredo Zavala, Monica Glover

**Members Absent (Unexcused):** Justin Bingham, Brittany Kyle

**Meeting Minutes:** March meeting minutes were approved by a majority vote via e-mail

**New Business**

**Staff Recognition Items and Door Tags**
- Distributed to members in attendance
  - Junior padfolio chosen as the appreciation of service item
  - Door tags to easily identify Staff Council representatives
- Items for those not in attendance can be picked up by contacting Lisa Johns at x7263

**Blueprint 2020 Debrief**
- Board of Regents claimed the original “6 Pillars” were too many goals, so plan was refocused on fewer priorities
- “Reducing administrative burden” was a memorable phase and discussion found that people perceived the meaning in a variety of ways
- Further discussion from the floor included:
  - Institute for Economic Development and its role in the plan
  - PeopleSoft issues
  - Durango Building to become a conference space to bring in revenue to Downtown Campus
  - Student support programs other than Advising, Counseling, and Peer Mentoring were not included in the plan although the top goal is to increase retention and graduation rates
The question was asked if members knew of plans for realignment of the Colleges, which moved discussion to

- Increased costs for moving
- Historical trends show there is often not enough lead time in planning for such moves
- Restructuring without talking to staff directly impacted
  - Advising restructure was used as an example and how 48% of those staff left the university within 6 months

**Update on UT System Visit**

- Invited members of Staff Council and other UTSA staff members met with Dr. David Daniel, Deputy Chancellor, and Dr. Steve Leslie, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on April 13th
- Talking points were recapped for members
- Discussion from the floor took a focus on compensation and merit
  - A representative from the President's Office explained how many variables impact the UTSA budget, aside from enrollment- university areas keeping money in reserve, the Board of Regents and their decisions, System decisions regarding Permanent University Fund (PUF) monies and how those are awarded
  - Elisa Perkins suggested it would benefit the Council to learn who the UTSA representatives are on System Committees so we can effectively bring concerns to their attention and move Staff Council efforts for change forward
  - A member on the VPBA budget committee shared some updates for the 2016-2017 fiscal year

**April Staff Appreciation Award**

- Vote was conducted by email because one of the nominees was a Staff Council member
  - Top 2 candidates were reviewed, votes were cast, and the winner chosen
  - Linda Martinez, committee chair, arranged for presentation of the award and presented to the winner on April 27th
  - Forrest Wilson announced Taniesa Williams, with UTSA PD, as the April Staff Appreciation Award winner

**Committee Updates**

**Issues- Lisa Merritt**

- No issues to report

**Health & Wellness- Taniesa Williams**

- Announced that the 2007 ruling regarding authorized leave for staff health and wellness is being added to the HOP, section 4.20
- This HB, which states that an employee has the right to 30minutes, 3 times each week of authorized leave for the purpose of health and wellness as long as the absence of the employee does not negatively impact their department, went into effect in 2007 and some departments are upholding the ruling
- Brian Jantz announced that the Kinesiology Department will be sponsoring the building of a community garden for students, and perhaps staff
  - Discussion of an on-campus farmer’s market is also under consideration
  - Richard Garza, member of the Green Fund committee, explained that students have requested the community garden but the university needed to have a permanent
sponsor in order to allocate funds for the effort as students depart and/or graduate, leaving the continuation of the garden vulnerable

- More information will be forthcoming
- Keith Mulestein, Director of Sustainability is heading the project

Parking- Brian Jantz
- Taniesa Williams reported that VPBA budget meetings revealed another parking structure will not be built in the next fiscal year; 2 additional surface lots will be added to Main Campus instead; no report on when construction will begin

Communications- Vincent Perez for KC Gonzalez
- Promotion of Strikes for Scholarships and the Great Staff Appreciation Event to continue
- Forrest Wilson stated that the VPBA reminded the Executive Leadership Council at their meeting to staff participation and allow staff to attend the event

Staff Appreciation- Linda Martinez
- Congratulations to Staff Council representative, Taniesa Williams for April
- May will be the last award winner for this academic year
- Recommended changing the Staff News email subject line because staff are getting this newsletter confused with the UTSA newsletter

Scholarship- Forrest Wilson for Amanda Marin
- Email sent to Student Financial Aid requesting the list of Staff Council Scholarship recipients for next year

Fundraising- Cindy Orth
- ALL lanes are full for Strikes for Scholarships-197 bowlers
- Coordinating some last minute individual bowlers with smaller teams
- Still accepting silent auction items
- Need volunteers to sign-up

Elections- Cindy Orth
- Will begin process in late May
- Voting will complete in July so new members will be able to join for the August transitional meeting

Great Staff Appreciation Event- Lisa Merritt for Shannon Rios
- Finalizing catering with Spice of Life
- Shuttles confirmed for Downtown Campus and ITC

Closing
- Richard Garza announced the Green Fund Committee was rained out for the original sensitive document shredding date and has rescheduled for Main Campus on Friday, April 29th south of the HUC or, if raining again, under the Business Building
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:39am
- The next scheduled Staff Council meeting will take place on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 8:30am via videoconference- on Main Campus in the VP-Research Conference Room (GSR 2.106) and Downtown Campus in FS 3.516
- April meeting minutes taken and submitted by Lisa Johns, Secretary