When there’s something strange in the neighborhood . . . Who ya gonna call?

By Cié Gee

Part of the Staff Council Blast’s mission is to highlight the committees that make up UTSA’s Staff Council. This month’s newsletter will spotlight the Issues Committee.

As you know, the UTSA Staff Council is a communication conduit to bring attention to staff issues and concerns. The Issues Committee is designed to be a voice for the staff of UTSA. It is the Issues Committee’s duty to bring to the attention of proper personnel, the issues that affect UTSA staff as a whole. It is important to note that these issues are ones that affect the University Staff, not individual grievances.

I have an issue, what do I do?

There are several ways to make your issue known to Staff Council.

1. Contact a UTSA Staff Council member (verbally, email, or letter). Then, they will represent you and bring your issue to the meeting.
2. Submit your issue through the Staff Council Issues Committee Contact Form

All issues submitted are confidential, but it is preferred to have a contact name so we can follow-up with the individual after the issue is researched.

I submitted my issue, now what?

Once an issue is submitted, it is presented to all of Staff Council. The members with the most access to personnel relative to the issue will pursue the answer. Remember, Staff Council has representatives from every staff area of UTSA. Then, the issue is on its way to being resolved!

One of the most recent issues that was presented to Staff Council was the hazardous crosswalk on Frio Street downtown.

The 2009-2010 Staff Council Issues Committee members are:

- Elba Ramos - Biology
- Patricia Morehead - Facilities (DT)
- Bradley Jones - Distance Learning
- Rebecca Penedell Garza - TRC
- Veneta Williams - College of Architecture
- Julie Brunts - Library
- Burt Reynolds - Business Auxiliary Services
- Arturo Almeida - Office of the President

Issues Committee Contact Form: http://www.utsa.edu/sc/forms/contact.cfm

Meet Shelley Underbrink, Secretary for the 2009-10 academic year representing the area of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and currently serving her first year of her first term on the Council. Shelley currently serves as Information Technology Training Coordinator with the office of Distance Learning & Academic Technology.

Besides being nominated, Shelley tells us, “I wanted to serve on the UTSA Staff Council because I have worked at UTSA for the past two and a half years and although I have met many people who attend the software training classes that I instruct, I wanted an opportunity to network with other employees across the campus. I also wanted to learn more about the issues that affect the university and its employees. I believe serving on the Staff Council is a great way to reach both of those objectives.”

Shelley hopes that by serving on the Staff Council, she can provide a voice for fellow UTSA employees. She states, “Many issues we face as employees can be addressed through the Staff Council, and I encourage UTSA staff to contact one of the Staff Council representatives when they have a concern.”

Staff Council Scholarship Recipient: Carlita Contreras-Melendez

By Shelley Underbrink

Carlita Contreras-Melendez was awarded the very first Staff Council Scholarship in 2006. Carlita expressed her gratitude for the scholarship, “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Staff Council for their support and commitment to the UTSA staff. I am very honored to be the first recipient of the UTSA Staff Council Annual Scholarship award. [Winning the scholarship] had a lot of meaning to me because it came from the hard effort of UTSA staff members, who want to bring change and good services to us here at UTSA. The Staff Council goes through a lot of hard work like selling water during May Commencement to raise money to provide a service to us.”

Carlita’s dream of obtaining a degree was accomplished in December 2008 when she walked across the stage with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Currently Carlita is working toward her Master’s degree.

Carlita works in the Facilities Planning and Development Department as an Administrative Analyst. In this position, she assists the University Architect, and she has assisted with the Master Plan for UTSA. Carlita described her role in the Master Plan as, “challenging and exciting to be part of the present of UTSA but also being able to plan for the future of the Next Great University in Texas.”

When asked if Carlita has any advice for UTSA staff, Carlita said, “I would like to encourage other staff members to follow their dreams and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and apply to the tuition program and the Staff Council Scholarship. I strongly believe this is a great and positive way to encourage our staff to follow their dreams in obtaining a degree.”

Carlita Contreras-Melendez
2006 Staff Council Scholarship Recipient

Staff Council Scholarships are available for degree seeking, benefits-eligible employees. Additional criteria for Staff Council Scholarship candidates are available through the Staff Council Scholarship Application page.

http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships/pdf/StaffScholarship%20Application1011.pdf

Staff Council Scholarship Application for the 2010 - 2011 Term Deadline 2/15/10