



The University of Texas at San Antonio

Summary Minutes of the Staff Council Meeting

January 26, 2012

The fifth regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2011-2012 academic year was held at the Downtown Campus of UTSA in BV 4.301 and was called to order at 8:35 a.m. with Chair Christopher Goldsberry presiding.

Members present:

Shannon Rios, Chris Goldsberry, Vicki Weber, Greg Freiden, Shirley Rowe, Jerry Smith, Eric Cooper, John Shaffer, Cindy Orth, Steve Kudika, Anne Jackson, Carey Eagan, Cynthia Davis, Alegra Lozano, Jennifer Lozano-Lowe, Roberto Rosas, Joleen Reynolds, Diane Cordova, John McGee

Members absent (excused):

Ray Gonzales, Robin Diamond, Annie Maynes, Victoria Cruz, Anne Macintosh-Speights, Blanch Torres, Belinda Dovalina, Venetta Williams, Vanessa Davalos-Ledesma, Cie Gee, Laurie Long, Christi Fish

Members absent (unexcused):

Alfonzo Villarreal, Gloria Harris, Henrietta Vasquez, Juan Noval

Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by majority vote via e-mail.

Guest Speakers:

Pamela Bacon – Associate Vice President of Administration – Parking Issues

Pamela was asked to join us to talk about the Campus Oval construction and the impact on parking.

We are losing 250 Faculty/Staff A & 24 Hour Reserved parking spaces in the closure of Lot 3.

Pamela discussed the issue from two aspects; the “Why” aspect and the “How” aspect.

The “Why”

The new garage on the North side of campus will hold 1200 spaces. This will cause a major influx of traffic on the north side of campus that cannot be handled by the existing entrance off of John Peace Blvd. Originally thought would have to wait a year after the garage opened to construct the traffic circle to help with congestion. Contractors told administration that we could build both at the same time so that the traffic circle and the garage would open at the same time. Also, March – August timeframe is the time of year when the least amount of students, faculty, and staff are on campus. Has always been in the Master Plan to have this type of entrance to the campus near the north end.

The “How”

Faculty and staff who currently park in Lot 3 will have to relocate to the south end of campus until August when 120 Faculty/Staff A spaces will reopen around the new garage. Parking has done studies and found that there are open spaces of Faculty/Staff A in the south parking lots at most times of the workday. Parking will monitor this situation and if restriping is required to compensate for the loss in Lot 3, they will restripe to accommodate more Faculty/Staff A spaces. Administration is looking into the cost of making more ADA spaces on the north end to compensate for the loss of 14 ADA spaces in Lot 3. This is an extremely costly and complex undertaking. Currently UTSA is within the legal limit of required spaces. The VIA Bus stop will temporarily be relocated further down the road from its existing location. Any type of shuttle to be provided for staff from the south end of campus to the north end would have to be paid for by staff and this extra cost could add up to the same as a garage permit. Parking garages are entirely funded by permit prices and this is a common practice among UT system schools. We are a young school and our prices will drop in the future like other schools have seen.

Comments

If we are “members” of our own parking, why are we not consulted about changes and given ample time to adjust to changes?

Benjamin Garcia – Director of OIT Support Services – OIT Connect

Ben wanted to give us a briefing on the new OIT Connect service unveiled recently on campus.

OIT went through some reflection and evaluation of their own services and feedback from their customers and they found overlapping functions, confusing forms, slow response times, and a need

for more access to services. OIT Connect is a single place for users to go for technical support. There is one phone number for all services (X5555), one e-mail address (oitconnect@utsa.edu), and one website (www.oitconnect.utsa.edu). On the website is a simple list of services divided up by tabs for Students, Faculty, and Staff. This is a starting point for OIT and a culture change for them and the university. Future improvements include online forms, more automation, and a self-service portal for users to check the status of a ticket, order parts, and create tickets in the same location. OIT will now be able to track the volume of their service calls and sort them by type; something they were not able to do before. This system will be a “win-win” for everyone.

Comments

Will you be adding staff to compensate for technicians being stretched across two buildings?
Yes, as the tracking system indicates, more staff will be added.

Old Business

January Staff Council Appreciation Award will go out next week and Chris will send out an e-mail with information on where and when

New Business

Staff Council Appreciation Award nominations for February, March, and April should go to Chris
Committee Reports

Issues – Shannon for Vanessa

Two new issues reported. One was the parking issues with a number of entries regarding the closing of Lot 3. These will be forwarded to the Ad-Hoc Parking committee for further review. The other issue was about Aramark employees being made to work on skeleton crew days to accommodate staff on campus. An e-mail was sent to Albert Cole, Director of Operations for Aramark and we are waiting on the official response.

Communications – Carey

Committee will begin working on newsletter for February distribution and welcome any ideas for articles. The Facebook page will have to be taken down temporarily and reopened due to some technical issues. Chris will get with OIT to obtain an official Staff Council e-mail address to attach to the Facebook account so that we do not have to attach the account to Carey’s personal FB page. When the page gets re-opened, we will do a marketing push to get more friends online.

Fundraising – Cindy

Bowling for Scholarships, on January 23rd was a huge success and a lot of fun for everyone who attended. Cindy thanked everyone who attended and participated. We did fill all 32 lanes and had our first faculty team participate this year. Preparation for the event was difficult this year as businesses were not as willing to donate items as last year. We did end up with several big ticket items and many smaller items for the silent auction and were able to auction off all of the items by the end of the night. We did not have the UTSA bowling ball to raffle due to company needing an 8 week lead time to make the ball. We will probably do this for event next year. Total profit was \$2588. This was only slightly lower than last year. The goodie bags were a success as usual. Food seems to go quickly at the silent auction so gift certificates to restaurants and food baskets would be good for next year. We need to start thinking about next year and the timeframe so that we can reserve early. Is January a good time for this event? Is Monday a good night for this event? Can we get this event to be an “official” UTSA sponsored event?

Chris moved to definitely have this event next year and for the Fundraising committee to begin working on the event as early as April. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Chris also moved to have each council member commit to obtaining a donation item or donating an item themselves. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Elections – Chris

Juan Noval is leaving UTSA. We will be replacing him with an alternate soon. In February we will begin discussing ideas for how to manage elections this year due to the inability to use Steve Wilkerson’s group as in the past. Greg brought up the idea of purchasing our own subscription to Survey Monkey like the Career Center. We will need more information and Greg will be providing that to Chris soon.

Scholarships – Jennifer

The deadline is February 15th, 2012. We have two scholarships, one annual and one endowed scholarship. Currently we have about 145 applications but only 10 are viable due to having the essay submitted. Six of the 10 eligible are for the annual scholarship and four are for the endowed scholarship. Jennifer will contact Shirley Baez to find out if we can contact the students who have not submitted their essay to remind them the essay is necessary to be eligible.

Ad-hoc Smoking – Joleen and Chris

Proposal for Dr. Romo is complete and looks really good. Eric suggested some type of executive summary with bullets for easier reading. Everyone is asked to read through the proposal and send any feedback to Chris as soon as possible. Chris will contact the President's office to find out the official procedure for submitting a proposal like this one. Conversation was had about the April 1st deadline for becoming a non-smoking campus. Several points were made about having the policy in place prior to orientation students in the summer and about pushing the deadline back to allow more time for planning. We will send the proposal in as is with the April 1st date as a "soft" deadline. The smoking issue has been brought to the attention of the EAC and is on their agenda.

Ad-hoc Parking – Joleen

Joleen brought up several points. UT Austin has an annual parking and transportation report that is posted online and is easy to find, read, and totally transparent. UTSA has nothing like that and really needs to be more transparent about its agenda, its money, etc. We are not included in decisions and are not being communicated with regarding timelines with ample time to make alternate arrangements. This issue has also been brought to the EAC's attention. There is a great need for some type of sliding scale according to salary for parking fees at UTSA. It would be a good idea to find out the percentages of faculty and staff in each salary range. There was some talk about the Green Space on the North side of campus and its ecological, economic, and aesthetic impact to UTSA. Also the ADA impact was discussed and the Director of Disability Services is on a committee with the President to address this issue directly. There was some discussion about whether the timeline for the Green Space can or should be adjusted. The consensus seems to be that we must be solution-focused and to give alternate solutions, we must have more information which requires Parking and Transportation to be more transparent with their information.

Reminder

The February meeting will be held at the Institute of Texan Cultures on Thursday, February 23rd at 8:30am in the Auditorium.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Minutes submitted by Shannon D. Rios, Staff Council Secretary