The University of Texas at San Antonio
Summary Minutes of the Staff Council Meeting
September 25, 2014

The first regular meeting of the Staff Council for the 2014-2015 year was held at the UTSA main campus in the Willow Room (UC 2.02.12) and was called to order at 8:35 a.m. with Chair Shannon Rios presiding.


Members absent (excused): Maranda Tupper, Wanda Guntz, Christine Bodily, KC Gonzalez, Sarah Netterlund, Michele Tencza

Members absent (unexcused): Wendy Frost, Ben Campos, Keith Pilger

Meeting Minutes:
There were no minutes from the August Transition Meeting.

Guest Speaker:
- Barbara Smith, Executive Director of Undergraduate Academic Advising
  - Presentation on Undergraduate Academic Advising restructure
  - Handouts provided to group included PP presentation and Advising Center Directory

General Announcements:
- Reminder sign up for committees for those who did not attend August meeting. Also reminder to be strategic about committee choices.
- Reminder to pick up a Staff Council pin for those who did not attend August meeting. Also reminder to wear Staff Council pin as often as possible.
- Reminder to pick up Staff Council business cards and information cards for posting and handing out to campus constituents.
- President’s Office has invited Staff Council to attend the State of the University Address on Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at 3PM in the HEB UC Ballroom. A section in the front will be reserved for Staff Council. All are strongly encouraged to attend to present a united front for staff at UTSA.

Committee Chair Announcements:
- Fundraising and Elections
  - Chair announcement tabled until October meeting
- Issues
  - Kai Kamaka
- Health and Wellness
  - Brandon Aniol
- Parking and Transportation
  - Jerry Smith (This had been decided prior to the meeting and was not communicated to group)
- Communications
  - Sarah Netterlund
- Scholarships
  - Alejandra Gonzalez
- Staff Appreciation
  - Lisa Johns
Officer Elections:
- Secretary
  - Mickie Tencza will be Secretary for the 2014-2015 year as agreed by Staff Council Officers last year due to her late election.
- Parliamentarian
  - Responsibilities of position reviewed with group
  - Nominations opened and one candidate nominated
    - Michael Logan was nominated and accepted the nomination
  - Nomination moved by Kai Kamaka, seconded by Justin Bingham, and approved unanimously to appoint Michael Logan to the position of Parliamentarian
- Vice-Chair
  - Responsibilities of position reviewed with group
  - Nominations opened and one candidate nominated
    - Anne Peters was nominated and accepted the nomination
    - Nomination moved by Kai Kamaka, seconded by Justin Bingham, and approved unanimously to appoint Anne Peters to the position of Vice-Chair

New Business:
- UTSA Virtual Tour
  - John Shaffer, from The Graduate School presented this newly completed production from YOUVISIT
  - Will be hosted on The Graduate School and Welcome Center websites
  - 20 stops on Main Campus are narrated by a “student” actress
  - Viewers can request a tour of campus, register their contact information, and apply from the site
  - Re-shoot scheduled for this summer to update tour with Iron Rowdy and newly named Alvarez Hall (San Saba Hall)
  - Mini-tours will be shot this fall for the DT Campus and will have 10 stops
  - UTSA is first Texas institution with this type of virtual tour available
- President’s Parthenon for Strategic Planning
  - Feedback requested on draft plan (handout provided) from President’s Office for University Assembly meeting in October
  - There is a need for more consistent procedures and systems to create a climate of efficiency and transparency. Theme seems to be that professional staff are used to implement strategies decided on at the upper level without input from those “on the ground.”
  - No mention of “Staff” in the plan with the exception of as a foundation for the success of Tier One. Should add “Recruit and Maintain Exceptional Professional Staff” to one of the strategic initiatives, much like the “Recruit Exceptional Faculty” bullet to help bridge the gap between faculty and staff.
  - Staff perks or incentives are an important part of the “maintenance” of exceptional staff. Incentives like free or reduced gym memberships, and reduced parking were mentioned.
  - Plan is vague with no real benchmarks identified.
  - Jerry mentioned that the first step to making these things happen is to identify and verbalize, to higher administration, the value that professional staff provide to the university and to the quest for Tier One status.
  - Chair asked for input (homework) on what value members and/or their departments bring to the university, to students, and to the quest for Tier One.

Announcements:
- Chair stressed importance of meeting attendance, attendance at State of University Address, communicating with campus constituents about Staff Council, and being good representatives for those who elected us.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 8:30am at the Main Campus, Willow Room, UC 2.02.12
- Minutes taken by Lisa Johns, Chair of Staff Appreciation Committee and submitted by Shannon Rios, Chair