

The University of Texas at San Antonio  
**UTSA** Staff Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2019

The eighth regular meeting of the UTSA Staff Council for fiscal year 2018-2019 was held at the Main Campus in the GSR 2.106. The meeting was called to order at 8:00am, with Elisa Perkins, Chair, presiding.

**Members Present:** Courtney Balderas-Jacob, Brandy Barksdale, Morgan Beard, James Borrego, Jaime Fernandez, Vincent Genco, Wanda Guntz, Sabina Kapoor, Matt Keneson, Linda Lankford, Paul Lozano, Mary Alice Morizen, Carin Norton, Cindy Orth, Mark Ottinger, Amanda Perez, Elisa Perkins, Jeffrey Ragsdale, John Shaffer, Jerry Smith, Sarah Soulek, Jason Vasquez

**Members Absent (Excused):** Monica Bowden, Andrea Chavez, Erbey Garza, Kristee Phelps, Kendra Pittman, Eric Weber

**Members Absent (Unexcused):** Joe Alderete, Ben Campos, Veronica Cavazos, Shashi Pinheiro, Suzanne Stokes, Venetta Williams, Maria Zayas

### University Ombudsperson:

- ❖ Donna Edmondson introduced herself as UTSA's Ombudsperson. Her role is to work with faculty, staff, and students to provide guidance in a confidential and informal manner, handling employment related concerns. She provides guidance on reporting options and keeps all interactions confidential (except those that must be reported by law). The Ombudsperson is only involved in the "informal" process and does not handle grievances once they reach the "formal" stage. She currently reports to the office of compliance, but will soon be reporting to the new VP for Inclusive Excellence. Donna shared her website containing FAQs, annual reports, and contact information: <https://www.utsa.edu/ombudsperson>.
- ❖ Courtney Balderas-Jacob reminded the council about the Dreamer Resource Center and said that allies are always needed. The next training program for allies will be offered in May. More information can be found on the website or via the main line at (210) 458-7777.

### University Athletics:

- ❖ Lisa Campos (VP for Intercollegiate Athletics & Athletics Director), Colin Howlett (Associate AD of Academic Services), and Gregg Michel (NCAA representative and Chair of the Athletics Council) shared some information and updates regarding athletics at UTSA. They discussed the program's goals for leadership development, enhancing the undergraduate experience, uniting the community through national exposure, and on-going resource development. A new center – the Roadrunner Athletic Center of Excellence (RACE) – is underway with an expected completion date of fall 2020. Many of the funds were raised for the project philanthropically, addressing the importance of keeping athletics on campus. Included in the project is a new team operations building at the current off-campus facility, Park West. The group discussed the athletics program as a percentage of total university expenditures (6% in 2017) and their focus on community service and rigorous academic standards for athletes.

### **Committee Updates:**

- ❖ Major Events and Fundraising
  - The location, time, catering, and giveaways have all been finalized for the Great Staff Appreciation Event. The committee has also coordinated with various affinity groups to have tables at the event where staff can get more information. There will be a shuttle to bring downtown campus staff to the event (departing downtown at 8:30am and returning at 11am). Volunteers are needed for various duties including welcoming/directing staff, assisting with food/drinks, and handing out giveaway items. The event is confirmed for Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am. Volunteers are also needed for the Strikes for Scholarships event on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Staff Appreciation and Scholarships
  - The recipient of the April Staff Appreciation Award will be announced soon, and a winner for May will be confirmed before May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Communications
  - The committee is working on communications for both staff events in May.
- ❖ Health and Wellness
  - No update
- ❖ Questions, Issues and Concerns
  - The committee was asked to help coordinate a staff forum, due to very little staff representation included in the master plan (as exhibited at the university's master planning meeting).
- ❖ Service and Social
  - The committee will be looking at hosting an event in May or June, to be coordinated around orientation.
- ❖ Elections
  - No update

### **Chair Updates:**

- ❖ Elisa updated the council on yesterday's UTSA Day at the Capitol. She said that the university is asking for funding for three items: expansion of the downtown campus, additional cybersecurity funding, and an increase to current grant funding.
- ❖ She asked the council to think about issues to bring to the master planning meeting with the QIC committee that would involve staff in the master plan.
- ❖ Brandy and John are serving on the AVP HR interview panels and any staff-related questions can be sent to them.
- ❖ Elisa discussed Staff Council's May 1<sup>st</sup> Campus Conversations meeting with the President. She asked the council for ideas of topics to bring forward for discussion. Some items included were Staff Council reporting structure, staff-student ratio, staff competitive pay/career pathways, and the support and expansion of staff affinity groups. Brandy and Matt are also working on compiling a list of staff initiatives and history to showcase.
- ❖ Next meeting: Thursday, May 23 from 8:30-10:30am (BSE 1.102)

### **Closing**

- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.