

U.T. DALLAS STAFF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2004

Green Center Commons

9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Andy Aquatero, James Barnes, Christina Braxton, Tina Butterfield, Deborah Day, Kris Faulk, Lee Ann Fitussi, Lisa Garza, April Gauer, Sandee Goertzen, Barbara Gordon, Gayle Holt, Fatiah Lambert, Carol Lanham, Jacqueline Long, Betty Loy, David Maldonado, Ramona Metcalf, Sandra Mitchell, Trudy Muller, Alex Nestor, Wendy Newton, Donise Pearson, Rochelle Pena, Cleon Ramey, Margie Robbins, Betty Roth, Mary Ann Routzahn, Randy Sims, Keith Stelzenmuller, John Terrell, Doug Vass, Volya Wilds-Helm and Sandra Zemcik

Members Absent: Donna Bomnskie, Sandy Burdine, Daniel Calhoun, Karen Jarrell, Kent Mecklenburg, Kathy Meyer, John Turner

EX OFFICIO: Robert Nelsen, Claire Occhipinti

Chair Sandee Goertzen called the meeting to order. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 10 as corrected. The motion passed.

Guest Speaker: Denise Ward, Executive Education – School of Management was guest speaker. Ms. Ward told us about the executive education programs available through School of Management and left brochures explaining the courses. Ms. Ward is also the coordinator for renting rooms and the SOM Executive Education cafeteria.

Reports

Executive Committee: Ms. Goertzen reported the Executive Committee met on December 1 and discussed all items on the agenda.

Dr. Wildenthal met with the Executive Committee to advise us the Ad Hoc Committee on Tuition has been meeting to raise tuition at U. T. Dallas. This rise in tuition is needed to replace the deficit left by cuts made by the Texas Legislature. The proposed tuition hike will take place in September 2005.

Two presidential candidates have withdrawn. This will be discussed further by Betty Loy and Dr. Robert Nelsen.

Alex Nestor is the new chair for the Communications Committee.

Chris Faulk has moved from District 5 to District 6 and will now become a member at large until the end of her term. Christina Braxton has taken her place in District 5.

Fall 2005 CARE awardees are listed below:

Sandy Bowen	Engineering and Computer Science
David Cady	Physical Plant
Sandra Mitchell	Safety
Debbie Montgomery	Library
Jerry Porter	Receiving
Ann Shoffstall	Teacher Education

One item was added to the agenda for today's meeting under Old Business: Recap from Fall Forum.

Treasurer's Report: Gayle Holt reported there is \$2,825.28 in our state fund, \$7,126.81 in the scholarship fund and \$435.90 in the designated fund.

Since Staff Council's float won "Most Spirited" in the Homecoming Parade we were awarded \$200. This will be reflected in next month's report when the money is actually in the account. Less than \$100 was spent on the float.

Benefits Committee: Doug Vass reported the Benefits Committee met November 12. The Benevolent Fund was discussed but no decision was made. There is also a question about how the cost will be taken care of. The Smoking Area suggestion was discussed and it was unanimous that a note needs to be sent back to the person who made this suggestion that this is a health issue covered by the State of Texas and is therefore out of our area.

Seven scholarship applications have been approved for \$250.00 each.

Communications Committee: Alex Nestor reported the Committee met to distribute the newsletter. The goal is to be able to bring the newsletter to the Staff Council meeting for distribution. The next newsletter is scheduled for the beginning of February to advertise balloon sales.

The Staff Council website has been updated to include a new online suggestion form.

Staff Development: In Kent Mecklenburg's absence, secretary Wendy Newton reported in his place. Pat McEachern was guest speaker at the Committee meeting. The A-Z guide is still being discussed. There was also discussion about Staff Development and the Wellness Committee working together on a project in the spring.

Fundraising Committee: Rochelle Pena reported 212 poinsettias were sold and we made \$1,060.00. Ms. Pena thought this amount could be doubled if the faculty received notification of the sale.

Ink jets are still very successful. Cookbook sales have picked up and are \$10.00 each.

The next meeting is December 13.

Presidential Search: Betty Loy reported the disbanded search committee is back

together as of November 28. Two of the three candidates dropped out. The Board of Regents requested more than one name but this cannot be done since two dropped from the race. Another candidate will now be found to be given to the Regents.

Dr. Schuster wanted to return to research and as President of UTD this would not be possible. Dr. Baldwin had been offered a job and the timing was such that a decision needed to be made before Thanksgiving. Dr. Barton is still being considered.

There are four options available to the search committee and the Board of Regents.

1. Override their rule and offer the job to Dr. Barton.
2. Scrap the whole search and start over again which would mean naming an interim president.
3. Alternate process whereby the search committee is reconvened without the Board of Regents representative. Candidates from other searches are given consideration.
4. Board of Regents representative is removed and search committee reconvened. The Regents are now free to pursue candidates who may have been reluctant before. The process would be speeded along.

Option 4 was recommended to the Board of Regents by the search committee.

Campus visits would still occur as before.

Dr. Nelsen received an unofficial promise there will be no interim appointment and no internal person is being considered. Dr. Nelsen also let us know that no candidates from other searches would be brought in.

There was a posting on the Board of Regents website that a candidate or candidates would possibly be named December 10. The Board of Regents want a decision made within a month. A campus visit will probably be in January after the holiday break.

Faculty Senate: Dr. Nelsen talked about the rise in tuition at U.T. Dallas. The students most impacted by the tuition hike are part-time students enrolled in three-six hours. Their tuition will go up about 20%. There will be a flat rate for those full time students enrolled in twelve or more hours.

Fifteen percent will be set aside for scholarship, grants, and financial aid. Fees will also disappear.

Graduate students who in the past paid less than undergraduate students will now pay the same.

Parking and Security Committee: No meeting

Campus Facilities and Oversight: No meeting

Safety Committee: No meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for December 8.

Women's Center: Barbara Gordon reported there is discussion about programs to be given; particularly regarding women's health issues. Any input on this issue can be given to Barbara or Lauren DeCillis.

Old Business:

Suggestion 2005-003-P

It was recommended the Smoking Area suggestion be sent back to the person making the suggestion. It was also noted Staff Council should not be involved with promoting smoking.

A motion was made and seconded a response would be made this suggestion is something Staff Council does not want to be involved with and dismiss this suggestion. The motion was approved through roll call vote. The motion passed.

Fall Forum: A suggestion was made that a power point presentation be included with the Staff Council report.

Ms. Goertzen read an e-mail she received regarding the poor turn out of Staff Council representatives and CARE awardees. It was noted the poor attendance may have been due to the fact Dr. Jenifer is leaving.

Dr. Nelsen noted it is a requirement for faculty to attend Fall Forum. Staff Council guidelines state "Staff Council representatives are invited and encouraged to attend Fall Forum." It was decided this would be discussed at the next Staff Council meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Muller
Recording Secretary/Parliamentarian
January 10, 2005