

## U.T. DALLAS STAFF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2005

Green Center Commons

9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Jacob Abraham, Marilyn Bechtol, Jessica Brown, Daniel Calhoun,, Kris Faulk, Sandee Goertzen, Gayle Holt, Lynn Hovatter, Irene Marroquin, Pat McEachern, Sue McInis, Remona McLain, Kent Mecklenburg, Kathy Meyer, Alex Nestor, Wendy Newton, Judy Patterson, Rochelle Pena, Cleon Ramey, Margie Robbins, Jach Ross, Mary Ann Routzahn, Kayety Rowlett, Randy Sims, Roger Stearns, Doug Vass

**Members Absent:** Christina Braxton, Sandy Burdine, Tina Butterfield, Sarah Hernandez, Rene Herrera, Carol Lanham, David Maldonado, Richard McMillan, Trudy Muller, Betty Roth, Beverly Young, Nadira Zakhidova

**EX OFFICIO:** Robert Nelsen, Claire Occhipinti

**Visitors:** Joyce Crum

Chair Sandee Goertzen called the meeting to order.

**Guest Speaker:** Joyce Crum from Physical Plant spoke to Staff Council about physical plant projects going on around campus. The on going projects are replacing the tiles in the mall area, replacing the UT Dallas sign on Floyd Road with a smaller sign, and upgrade of restrooms beginning with the Conference Center.

**Guest Speaker:** Claire Occhipinti from Human Resources addressed questions about TRS Service Time. The option of being allowed to add credits if not grandfathered through expired August 31.

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of September 14<sup>th</sup> as amended.. The motion passed.

### **Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Ms. Goertzen reported the Executive Committee met on October 5th and discussed all items on the agenda.

**Membership Changes:** Donna Bomnskie has resigned from Staff Council Donna was a member at large and will not be replaced. Sandra Mitchell has also resigned from Staff Council. She was a member at large and will not be replaced. Volya Wilds-Helm has resigned from Staff Council and will be replaced by Remona McLain.

**UTD/UT Arlington Presidential Swap:** The Executive Committee met with Mr. Spaniola of UT Arlington during the Presidential Swap and Daniel Calhoun will report on the meeting later in the meeting.

**Recycling Committee:** Dr Larry Terry asked Ms. Goertzen to chair a Recycling Committee. The committee has met once and are looking into programs at other universities.

**Vice President of Business Affairs Search Committee:** Ms. Goertzen updated the Staff Council on the search for the Vice President of Business Affairs. The committee received eighty-five applications and they have narrowed the list down to ten candidates and are looking into their references. The goal is to have the VP selected by the end of 2005.

**Homecoming Parade:** The Homecoming Parade is scheduled for October 14 at 2:00 and since this is a Friday, the Executive Committee decided Staff Council would not be participating but encouraged Staff Council members to attend if possible.

**CARE Award Deadline:** The deadline for CARE Award nominees is October 31. E-mail messages will be sent to campus as reminders. Signs are available for putting up around campus.

**UTA Presidential Swap Report:** Daniel Calhoun reported that the Executive Committee met with UTA President Spaniolo for a 15-20 minute long meeting. President Spaniolo was informed about UTD Staff Council activities including fundraising, CARE Awards and scholarships. Staff Council reps asked him about tuition benefits for UTA staff and he is working to include tuition benefits to children of staff.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gayle Holt reported there is (\$16.76) in our state fund, \$1,893.92 in the scholarship account and the designated account has \$3,170.75.

**Corresponding Secretary Report:** Three sympathy/condolence cards were sent out this month. Information is by word of mouth only, so please contact Alex or Sandee if you know of a staff member who has lost a family member.

**Benefits Committee:** Randy Sims reported the committee met on September 29. Randy Sims was elected Chair and Rene Herrera was elected secretary and times for the next meeting was discussed. Questions about TRS service time were raised and the committee is researching staff day care options on other campuses.

**Communications Committee:** Lynn Hovatter reported the committee met on September 22 and elected Kayety Rowlett as secretary. Lynn Hovatter was elected Chair by e-mail after the meeting. The Committee is investigating possibilities of one-page SUN newsletters published more frequently with more timely information. Smaller SUNs could be printed at the Copy Center for faster turnaround. They

planned for Fall Forum (announcements, greeters at door) and are also seeking ideas for future SUN articles.

**Staff Development:** Pat McEachern reported the committee met October 4 and elected Pat as Chair and Marilyn Bechtol as secretary. Kent briefed the new committee on last year's activities. The committee discussed planning sub-committees to handle continuing business such as A to Z, display case, etc). Non-Staff Council members will be encouraged to be involved.

**Fundraising Committee:** Rochelle reported there has not been a committee meeting yet. More boxes of inkjet and laser toners have been sent out. Poinsettia sales should start in November. There will be no Mums ordered this year.

**Wellness Committee:** Wendy Newton reported the committee met October 11 and five people attended. On-campus hearing screenings will be held November 2 on campus for students. The committee is trying to get screenings for staff.

The Great American Smoke-out will be in November. The committee is working on developing a Walking Program for staff and is still researching suggestions to bring Weight Watchers on campus. They are planning a Stress Elimination Lunch 'n Learn session in December.

Wendy will continue as chair and spokesperson.

**Faculty Senate:** Dr. Nelsen reported Dr. Daniel is looking at three different models for tuition increases. The models are:

1. Continue incremental step raises to gradually increase revenue
2. Adopt a Fixed Rate guaranteed for 4 years for each freshman
  - (a) There are then questions about transfer students and those who take more than 4 years to graduate.
3. Adopt one flat rate for all students (both in-state and out-of-state)
  - (a) Possibly around \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year
  - (b) Rebate all state funds back to in-state students
  - (c) May include different rates for different majors and levels

SACS Accreditation process has begun – emphasis on student outcomes.

Possible changes to the Latin Honors programs: Instead of a fixed GPA to receive honor, based on top percent of each school. This would guarantee an equal percentage of honors recipients from all schools.

**Strategic Plan:**

1. Plan was submitted and is being reviewed.
2. Six Key Initiatives outlined
3. Dr. Daniel very interested in Service Learning courses to involve

our students in outside community.

### **University Committees:**

**Parking and Security Committee:** Kent reported the committee met on October 11. The committee reviewed newest parking usage survey (counting empty spots in lots). There is a possibility of hiring a parking/traffic consultant. Some projects will proceed without an outside consultant. Possible new parking lots north of Lot M (next to SOM), west of AS (on Rutford), and expanding Lot N (next to North Callier). There have been many questions raised regarding Lot M and SOM parking.

Student Government Association is proposing limited after hours access to main campus via gates at all main entrances: (a) Electronic gates would allow cars in with Comet Card access; (b) include manning the Visitor Center 24/7 and/or even building a second Visitor Center on north side of campus.

Committee is very concerned about excessive vehicular traffic in mall.

**Campus Facilities and Oversight:** No meeting. Dr. Murray Leaf has been appointed the new chair.

**Safety Committee:** Doug reported the committee did not meet. No chair has yet been appointed.

**Women's Center:** Judy Patterson reported bulletins will be printed twice a year now. The Center will participate in the Race of the Cure. Two "Safe Zone" movies are coming up. Women scholarships may increase to \$1,000.00.

**Employee Advisory Council:** Rochelle reported on the October 10 meeting held in Austin. Sandee and Rochelle attended the meeting.

UT System Diversity Officer spoke about Texas demographics and population changes by 2050. There was a presentation from the Board of Regents Task Force on Accountability and Responsibility.

There was more information on supplemental retirement programs for Staff:

1. Both 403 (b) and 457 (b)
2. Rochelle stressed to UT System important of communicating all possible benefits and options to all staff – benefits no one knows about does any good.
3. Stressed preference for face-to-face or group HR meetings over impersonal information in e-mail or on web site.
4. UT System Compensation Study to be updated to include comparisons to Higher Education and private sector.

The Staff Council group photo was taken.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Muller  
Recording Secretary/Parliamentarian  
November 2, 2005