

Official and Approved Minutes

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U.T. DALLAS STAFF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2009

TI Auditorium ESCS 2.102

9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Carole Abbott, Metta Alsobrook, James Barnes, Kristen Blakely, Lynne Boyer, Corina Cantua, Tysh Coleman, Darlene Coppage, Caroline Crossley, Chris Dickson, Erin Dougherty, Chaney Edwards, Arturo Elizondo, Lisa Garza, Robert Hamilton, Patrice Holt, Tommi Ivey, Carol Lanham, Tom Lee, Jacqueline Long, Michelle Long, Tricia Losavio, Irene Marroquin-Bellatin, Remona McLain, Roxanne Minnish, Randi Mogul, Rebecca Murry, Judith Patterson, Gaby Perkowski, Rena Read, Tara Riall, Melissa Rogers, Douglas Shedd, Holly Shumake, Lori Skillestad, Kathy White

ABSENT: Ed Bennett, Laurie Brown, Kristen Faulk, Colter Fleming, Kimberly Kentfield, Lin Maute, Loreen Phillips, Brenda Seifi

GUESTS:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

President Chris Dickson called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL:

Eight Staff Council members were absent; however, a quorum was established.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 10, 2008 minutes are incomplete. Ms. Patterson motioned to table these minutes until the March meeting. Ms. Coppage seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

4. SPECIAL TOPICS:

a. ESL Program for staff: David Alamia, Civil Rights Chair for the UTD Young Council explained that language is the critical component here at UTD. The Council would like to offer language skill development to staff. Instruction will be given twice a week, preferably on weekdays after work. No expenses are expected because for the time being, old textbooks are being used. The

Multicultural Center offers free ESL classes on Saturdays but the Council has found that it is hard for most people to get back to the campus on weekends.

- b. Safety and security on campus: Rochelle Pena comes before the Staff Council today, asking for our help. The recent knifing attack on campus has created concern for students, staff and faculty. There is anger and outrage at the lack of notification immediately following the incident. While at the Town Hall meeting, questions were asked. Why wasn't a reverse 911 put in place? Dean Spong replied that everyone was gone, the semester had not reconvened. Rochelle felt that Administration tried to portray their concern but were not genuine. It's been over a month and none of our concerns have been addressed. There are strobes in every classroom. Why weren't they used? Administration has the responsibility to communicate to the staff and they should know what equipment is available and how to use it in the event of an emergency. Five hundred people were in the Engineering building when the attack occurred. There is a P.A. System in the building that could have been used. The Command center at the Police Station has access to it.

Lynn Boyer sits on the Safety Committee. Their biggest issue is communication, making sure that buildings are equipped with emergency notification equipment, even putting sirens in the parking lots. This should be a campus community initiative, not just Administration. The Safety Committee is working on solutions. As Lori Skillestad noted, there are solutions being offered, such as the R.A.D. classes that employees aren't taking advantage of.

Rochelle will write a proposal requesting Administration give an account of what has taken place as a result of the Town Hall meeting. There was a roll call vote, all in favor of supporting Ms. Pena's action plan.

- c. Resolution – Beer/Wine in the Pub: Staff Council supports Beer/Wine with restrictions left best to Administration. Mr. Dickson will send Steve Rosson, President of Student Council, a copy of the resolution.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Executive Board: Mr. Dickson reported that the Board met and everything that was discussed is outlined in the Executive Board meeting minutes.
- c. Attendance Report: Ms. Losavio reported that the attendance report was included in the agenda packet and if there are any corrections or questions please contact her.
- d. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Ms. Kirkwood-Brown was not here today to give a report. The report distributed before this meeting appears to be incorrect. Hopefully, this will be corrected at next month's meeting.

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- d. Benefits Committee: Ms. Skillestad reported that scholarship and CARE awards will be announced at next month's meeting.
- e. Communications Committee: Ms. Ivey reported that the SUN Newsletter went out as scheduled.
- f. Staff Development Committee: Ms. Patterson reported that the committee will now be meeting on Wednesdays as opposed to Thursdays. Please see distributed meeting minutes.
- e. Fund Raising: Ms. Garza is requesting help for the upcoming Valentine Balloons sale. They will be sold Friday, February 13th. She will send out an email confirmation as a reminder.
- h. Wellness Committee: Ms. Minnish reported that there will be a Brown Bag lunch Wednesday, February 18th, featuring a cardiologist from Presbyterian Hospital. On March 4th, a breakfast will be provided for Live Healthy Dallas participants. More details to follow. The Wellness Committee will meet again March 4th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.
- i. UT System Employee Advisory Council: There will be a meeting March 1st and 2nd at which Rochelle Pena and David Maldonado will attend.
- j. Faculty Senate: Dr. Leaf reported that a Wellness Committee charge has been written and approved by the Faculty Senate. They will also write a charge to the Safety & Security Council stating their concerns for campus safety.
- k. Student Government: Mr. Rosson was not in attendance to report.
- l. Retired Faculty/Staff Association: Ms. Goertzen reported that she has been re-elected as President for the upcoming year. They also voted to change their name to the following: UTD Retiree Association
- m. University Committees:
 - i. Parking and Transportation Committee – Ms. Coleman reports that there hasn't been a meeting since November but there have been a lot of citations issued because of construction campus-wide. Please get online to check traffic updates daily.
 - ii. Campus Facilities Committee – the website has been built and turned over to Dr. Jamison's office. This committee will meet soon.
 - iii. University Safety & Security Committee – No meeting to report.
 - iv. Women's Center – No meeting to report.
 - v. Deans and Directors – No meeting to report.
 - vi. IR Security, Planning & Policy Committee – No meeting to report. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5th.
 - vii. Auxiliary Services Advisory Committee – No meeting to report.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Child Care: Ms. Long reported that the Diversity and Equity committee met. Dr. Spector made a presentation to Cabinet. Approximately \$10,000 will be spent for a feasibility study for campus childcare. They will meet again in March.
- b. E2E Connection: Mr. Dickson reported the program has gone extremely well. The pilot program will run for another month and then be handed over to Human Resources. More updates will follow.
- c. Staff Appreciation Day: Staff Appreciation Day is tentatively planned for July 22nd. The goal is to get 400 or more to attend.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. New Suggestions:
 - i. Bike Routes: A suggestion has been made to extend the bike route along Synergy and Waterview, basically completing the circle around the driving range. That would leave only one crossing at Waterview/Synergy to get from the main campus to WSTC.

Mr. Barnes moved to table the suggestion until construction projects have been completed. Ms. Read seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
 - ii. Power Efficiency: The Staff Council should take a leading role in reducing the university's excess use of electricity. Please address this issue aggressively.

Mr. Barnes made a motion to forward this suggestion to Walter Welsh in Facilities Management. Ms. Coppage seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- b. Valentine Budget Proposal and Vote: Ms. Minnish motioned to approve expenses for the Valentine balloon sale, showing a net profit of \$301.16. Ms. Ivey seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
- c. Texas Equity Conference: Ms. Riall requests to attend the Texas Equity Conference with an overnight stay totaling approximately \$250. Ms. Patterson motioned to approve the expenses. Ms. Ivey seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
- d. Other: Ms. Abbott brought a suggestion to the table. Can parking charges be pro-rated for part-time employees and students? This is something regulated by UT System regents that cannot be adjusted.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Suggestions/Proposals from the floor: Mr. Barnes motioned to send David Alamia's request to offer ESL classes to staff be forwarded to the Benefits Committee for review. Mr. Elizondo seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b. Other: Mr. Dickson resigned as Staff Council president, effective today. Ms. Losavio will assume presidency for the remainder of this year with Mr. Dickson serving in an advising capacity. Mr. Dickson states that he has seen a lot of improvements over the past three years. He will send his resignation notice to the campus this afternoon. Ms. Mogul motioned to table the Vice President election until the March meeting. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Ms. Coppage stated that Mr. Dickson will truly be missed. His guidance has brought us where we are today. Staff Council applauded in agreement.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Roxanne Minnigh

Staff Council Representative

District #6