
Ex Officio Members and Guests

Dennis Kratz, Murray Leaf, and Claire Occhipinti

Members absent

Sandra Biddle, Laurie Brown, Vinny Targa

Chair David Maldonado called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September 9, 2002, meeting were approved.

Mr. Maldonado introduced Dr. Dennis Kratz, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

Guest Speaker

Dean Kratz spoke of the active arts program in A&H and the school's mission: to enrich and enhance the atmosphere of the university. He detailed the attendance at recent A&H sponsored events and promoted upcoming events, including the joint CCCC-UTD production of A Clockwork Orange.

Dean Kratz indicated that the school has recently begun to charge faculty and staff a modest price for attendance at events with a public admission cost over $10.

Dean Kratz also promoted the upcoming holiday program (December 8th) with the 26th annual holiday sing (free admission for each of two performances: 2:30 p.m. with a children's orientation and 7:30 p.m. with a more adult orientation).

Dean Kratz also outlined curricular changes within the school, including the new Art & Technology (game) curriculum, which he spoke of as being on the cutting edge, much as film studies programs were on the cutting edge in the 1950s and 60s. The program focused on both digital and visual design as well as games and interactive narrative. This program is a joint venture between the School of Arts & Humanities and the Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science. The undergraduate program will likely be available for the Fall 2003 term. Plans are underway to build a similar graduate program.
Dean Kratz invited Staff Council members to comment freely about how A&H can better serve the university and the staff. [email: dkratz@utdallas.edu]

Reports

Executive Committee

Mr. Maldonado reported that the Executive Committee had met on October 2, 2002, and heard first reports from each of the recently formed Staff Council committees. He reviewed recent information about the Campus Master Plan, previewed the Fall Forum (October 28, 2002), and mentioned the distribution of the newsletter at the end of the meeting. He also reported that the Executive Committee set the agenda for todayís meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Goertzen reviewed the balance sheet, indicating that the current amounts included $3,127.05 in State Funds, $633.50 in Designated Funds, and $3,034.41 in the Scholarship Account. She also indicated that there was a pending BAF to move $500 to the Scholarship Account.

Benefits

Mr. Maldonado reported that Sandra Biddle had been elected Chair and that Victoria Bullock would serve as Secretary. He previewed the upcoming poinsettia sale and indicated that the committee would again meet within the next week.

Communications

Ms. Attari mentioned the newsletter, with copies ready for distribution. She also mentioned the signs and posters to be picked up to advertise the CARE Award nomination process. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2002.

Staff Development

Ms. Newton reported that the committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month and that she had been elected Chair, with April Gauer serving as Secretary. Ms. Newton reported that the group was finalizing some projects from the previous year, including the updating and maintenance of the A-Z Guide on the web, the Callier drive and the trophy case to be placed outside the Human Resources office once HR has a new home. She also mentioned that the committee had received some thank-you cards from some of the Callier students and that the 50% increase in gifts was, in some part, attributable to the contributions of the McDermott Scholars.

Ad hoc Wellness

No report.
Parking & Security

Ms. Ballard reported that the first meeting of the committee would be October 10, 2002.

Campus Facilities and Oversight

Ms. Attari reported that the committee would meet later in the month.

Safety

Mr. Davis indicated that he had not yet been contacted about a meeting time or date.

Women's Center

Ms. Johnson reported upcoming events for Breast Cancer Awareness Week, Self Defense for Women, and "The One-Minute Manicure".

Faculty Senate:

Dr. Leaf reported that the state-wide push for background history checks might be "dead" based on Chancellor Yudof's push to establish a new committee to revise the existing policy. According to Dr. Leaf, there remains, however, some ambiguity about the exact disposition of the policy as the UT System has not yet posted any change on the UT System web site. He emphasized the widespread belief that some kind of security plan is necessary and that the new System policy will likely give each component more discretion in drafting and enforcing such a policy.

Dr. Leaf also mentioned the dichotomy that currently exists in enforcement of the existing policy, with differences in application to staff, faculty and student hires. He suggested that some resolution should be reached within the next few months.

The Faculty Senate has joined the Staff Council in its request for campus privileges for retired faculty and staff.

Old Business

1. UTD Homecoming: The Homecoming Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2002, at 11:00 a.m. This year's theme is "space invasion." General discussion about Staff Council's role in the parade followed. Ms. Attari moved that Staff Council participate in the parade. Ms. Long seconded the motion. The motion carried, 16-6.
2. Ms. Gauer asked how much money had been spent the previous year. The answer was approximately $120.
3. Mr. Maldonado asked for a volunteer to chair the ad hoc committee for homecoming participation. Mr. Mecklenburg agreed to chair. Committee volunteers included Mr. Bogan, Ms. Long, Ms. Echevarria, and Ms. Attari.
4. Ms. Goertzen moved that the committee be allotted up to $150 for expenses associated with the float entry. Ms. Attari seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Mr. Maldonado reported that the Staff Council continues to recruit a Callier Center representative for the Staff Council.

Other Business, Announcements and Miscellany

1. Flu shots will be available for staff and faculty on November 19th (9:30 ? 11:30 a.m.) and November 20th (2 ? 4 p.m.). Faculty and Staff will need to show their Comet Card and pay $10 (exact change only) for the shots, although the Office of Environmental Health and Safety is attempting to reduce the cost to $5. Five hundred shots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Baylor Richardson Hospital will be administering the shots in AD 3.104 (as of this time).

2. CARE Award flyers and signs are available and ready for distribution. Nomination forms are available on the Staff Council web site. Signs should be picked up on October 31, 2002, and returned at the next Staff Council meeting (November 13, 2002).

3. Ms. Attari spoke about the upcoming Fall Forum (October 28, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Center building). The Communications Committee is requesting questions be submitted in advance via email.

4. Regarding parking regulations, Mr. Maldonado reported that Chief Colleen Ridge had responded to a Staff Council request and indicated that the Campus Police are, indeed, writing tickets for expired licenses and inspection stickers.

5. Mr. Maldonado reported that the Campus Master Plan group had met on September 23, 2002. Within the proposed plan, UTD will experience a doubled student body size by the year 2027. To handle that expansion, the committee proposed extensive building growth, the addition of a DART line nearer to campus, more public transportation within the city of Richardson, expanded and improved campus housing, and more visibility on all sides of the campus perimeter. Plans call for more parking lots toward the edges of campus and a pedestrian mall. The plan also calls for improved signage across the campus.

6. Mr. Maldonado reported that there had been no forward movement on the retiree issue except for the support of the Faculty Senate.

New Business
Mr. Bogan mentioned two citizens pointing radar guns on Floyd Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Huckaba
Staff Council Secretary
2002-2003
October 25, 2002