Members present: Peggy Attari, Beverly Ballard, Laurie Brown, Rickie Brown, Vickie Bullock, Daniel Calhoun, Don Davis, Mary Margaret Echevarria, Lynda Gary, Sandee Goertzen, Roberta Green, Gayle Holt, Richard Huckaba, Darlene Johnson, Jacqueline Long, David Maldonado, Kent Mecklenburg, Wendy Newton, Rochelle Pena, Emebet Sahle, Tina Sharpling, Vinny Targa, Kerry Tate, Doug Vass

Members absent: Nick Argueta, Christy Baxter, Sandra Biddle, Paul Bogan, Deborah Day, April Gauer, Kathy Gribble, Karen Hart, Pat McEachern, Karla Perez, Brenda Walston

Guests present: Claire Occhipinti, Murray Leaf

Chair David Maldonado called the meeting to order. The minutes of March 12, 2003, were approved.

Reports

Executive Committee: Mr. Maldonado reported:
- The Executive Committee had received approval to proceed with the Inkjet Recycling Project.
- 34 nominations had been received for consideration for the CARE Award.
- Peggy Attari had agreed to serve as chairperson of the ad hoc nomination & election committee for the upcoming elections.
- The district #3 coffee with the President is scheduled for April 22, 2003.

Treasurer’s Report: Ms. Goertzen reported:
- The current balance in the state funds account is $2,153.84, reflecting $49.14 in expenses for the CARE Awards.
- The current balance in the designated funds account is $800, reflecting a deposit from a returned check and a transfer of $811 from the balloon sale to the scholarship fund.
- The current balance in the scholarship account is $4,685.85.

Benefits: Mr. Maldonado reported that the committee had met to discuss the inkjet recycling project and the prototype of the recycling box to be used. The committee had received 185 recipes of a desire 250 for the cookbook. Additional recipes may be submitted to Brenda Walston in Word format before April 15, 2003.

Communications: Ms. Attari reported that the committee had met Monday and is planning the newsletter for next month.

Staff Development: Ms. Newton reported that the committee continues to update the A-
to-Z guide and has opted to table the trophy case and the scholarship awardee plaque projects until next year. The committee will meet again April 17, 2003 in The Pub.

**Parking & Security:** Ms. Ballard reported
- The committee had met on February 25, 2003.
- The committee discussed new decals for the upcoming year and decided to keep the hang tags.
- There are plans for a new lot behind the Student Union with 1 ½ hour meters and designated parking for purple tags and disabled tags.
- There are plans for 120 new spaces near the Management building for both orange and purple tags.
- A parking garage is projected within the next 2 – 3 years with 600 parking spaces, at a cost of approximately $8,000 per space. Plans include a $40 hike in current prices for parking.
- Problems with parking in the Waterview lots are being referred to student groups for action.

Ms. Goertzen moved that the chair write a letter to the president regarding staff concerns about an increase in parking fees. Ms. Pena seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Green reported that the topic had arisen at the last coffee with the president.

**Campus Facilities and Oversight:** Ms. Attari reported that the committee had not met.

**Safety:** Mr. Davis reported that the committee had not met.

**Women’s Center:** Ms. Johnson indicated that she had no report.

**Other Business, Announcements and Miscellany**

Dr. Leaf reported:
- The proposal regarding retiree benefits was moving along and being reviewed.
- Dr. Sutton is working on a response.
- The president had indicated he believes our budget cuts for FY 2004 may be as little as 4%.
- There is some discussion of reducing health benefits for the upcoming year.
- There are approximately 180 bills affecting education in the hopper in Austin.
- A new faculty senate has been elected.
- The Master Plan is completed and parking is considered within the plan.
- Discussion continues about the possibility of UTD’s moving toward research status, often requiring $100 million in research dollars.

**New Business**

1. Mr. Maldonado asked that members review the guidelines regarding attendance
for both Staff Council and committee meetings.

2. Ms. Attari requested a budget for the nomination and election committee’s work. Ms. Goertzen moved the committee be given the same budget as last year (approximately $290). Ms. Vass seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Ms. Attari indicated the first letters seeking nominations would be distributed during the upcoming week.

4. Mr. Maldonado indicated that redistricting would be considered next year after most departmental moves have been completed.

5. Mr. Mecklenburg moved to make the pictures of nominees (who are elected) a permanent feature of the Staff Council web site, thus including pictures of all Staff Council members on the web within the next year. Ms. Pena seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Ms. Green reported that District 4 had met with the president and that Dr. Jenifer anticipates no layoffs unless our budget reduction is around 10 percent. Other topics included handicapped parking and student issues.

7. Mr. Brown questioned how some staff without computer access should review their payroll “advices.” Mr. Maldonado reported that supervisors were supposed to have printers and PCs available in such areas with limited computer access.

8. Mr. Vass asked if the “advice” could be reduced to a single page. Mr. Maldonado indicated the Payroll Office would check the formatting.

9. Ms. Newton asked how not printing payroll stubs was a cost saving. Mr. Maldonado reported that many printed “advices” were never picked up.

10. Ms. Green reported that the Plano newspaper of March 26, 2003, had included a picture of Jo Ellen Roach who indicated one of her biggest honors was being awarded the UTD Staff Council CARE Award.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Huckaba
Secretary, Staff Council