

**UT Staff Council
General Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2012
ACES 2.302 (Avaya Auditorium)
2:00 PM**

Present: P A M Abusali, Lauren E Apter, Ryan S Baldwin, Alex Banbury, Lizbelle Bevington, Alanna M Bitzel, Karen Blaney, DeAunderia Bowens, Tracy L Brzozowski, James D Burton, Janie C Bushn, Veronica R Cantu, Richard L Costa, Cynthia L Crawford, Katherine A Cross, Stephanie W Crouch, Dawn M Davis, Debbie G Dillingham, Mary E Durst, Jeannie L Farahnak, Barbara L Fehlman, Kayla M Ford, Erika L Frahm, Philip M Gavenda, Joseph Gregory, Nancy L Hard, Robert Hernandez, Bryan S Hill, Cheryl L Kaufman, Maureen F Kelly, Lauren M Kinast, Matthew R Kresha, David Kruse, Leticia A Lira, Teresa L Lloyd, Ann Marchock, Vicki A Miller, Angela R Mirabito, Susanna Olivarez, Anselmo G Oranday, Lorena A Peterson, Kelly O Pratlett, Carol B Riazzi, Jo Ann Richmond, Ian M Riddington, Decarlos R Roberson, Laura M Schwartz, Jacob Silva, Lisa R Sova, Stuart M Tandler, Gary A Thomas

Excused: Anthony Anderson, Patrick Buckner, Jennifer D Danford, Sergio D Delgado, Jeff W Ellinger, Dan Galewsky, Christopher B Goudreau, Victoria K Grier, Angela M Newell, Derrick A Ozuna, J Gumaro Rodriguez, Alisha E Thompson

Absent: Eric C Bolinger, Julie M Kniseley, Elise M Nacca, Daryl F Neyens, Erin R Parr

Guests: Jen Sims

Meeting Called to order at 2:00

Staff Ombuds Office – Jen Sims

Jen updated the Staff Council her office's role and responsibilities. She also mentioned a talk hosted by Jen and Claire Moore, the Wellness Coordinator from UT HealthPoint, entitled Self Compassion with speaker Dr. Kristin Neff, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology. The Self Compassion talk is scheduled on Tuesday, September 25th. Jen also took questions from Staff Council representatives to clarify how her office can help UT Staff.

Chair's Report – Erika Frahm

Erika reminded the Council that our October meeting will be held in MAI 212 due to a conflict in our regular meeting spaces in ACES. The UTSC Twitter account is up to 461 followers. The UT Police Oversight Committee has one position open for a Staff Council Representative. Please let Erika know if you are interested. Volunteers are also needed to help with the November potluck plans. Please see Erika about that as well. Erika also mentioned the "Managing Change and Uncertainty" class on

November 13th and can be signed up through TXCLASS. She also mentioned the Self Compassion Forum. Finally, please send Erika any constructive feedback regarding the evacuation of campus last Friday. She will condense this feedback and relay it to the President's Office.

Vice Chair Report – Joe Gregory

Joe mentioned that there is a need for two volunteers from Pickle to serve on the Pickle PTS committee. Please see Joe if you are interested. Joe also mentioned that he and Erika will be attending the UT System EAC meeting in October and would like for Staff Council representatives know let him or Erika know if there are any issues that they can convey on our behalf.

Recording Secretary – Ryan Baldwin

UT Staff Council meeting minutes for June, July, and August have been sent out to the Council for review. Also, Ryan asked to let him know if anyone is not getting committee mail list emails so the reps can be added.

Nominations & Elections Committee – Lori Peterson

Lori mentioned that there were four Staff Council resignations in August and September and that her committee has been able to fill two of those vacancies. N&E will be determining if a redistricting project is needed and feasible. Please let Lori know if you know of someone that can fill the currently vacant districts.

Resources Chair – Debbie Dillingham

Debbie has nametags for new members to distribute.

Parking and Transportation Liason – Stuart Tendler

Stuart thanked the Council for submitting parking issues to him. Currently, there are three categories that he is compiling from the feedback; pedestrian safety, bus service/access, and parking availability/fairness. Please let Stuart know if there are any issues that need to be brought up.

Communications Annual Committee – Alanna Bitzel

Alanna gave a report of the Communications Committee's initial meeting. The committee has determined potential goals for the committee. These potential goals include: Solidify the role of communications within Staff Council; Review and possibly enhance Staff Council's social media profile; and Raise the profile of UT staff members.

Compensation Annual Committee – Richard Costa

Richard indicated that the Compensation Committee is reviewing all of the information gleaned from the annual retreat. The committee will determine if any of the issues can be resolved at UT or if the issues require legislative changes that are beyond the influence of the Council. The committee hopes to be able to define the potential issue resolution impact and implementation costs.

Staff Education Annual Committee – Veronica Cantu

The Staff Education Committee will be working on a number of things including promoting the staff education benefit to increase its usage. The committee will also look into professional development courses. The committee is also looking into the possibility of creating a new survey to gauge the staff's educational needs.

Staff Retention Annual Committee – Lauren Apter Bairnsfather

Lauren reported that the Retention Committee is looking at the issue of outsourcing staff on campus and potentially drafting a resolution regarding the issue. The committee is also considering drafting a resolution in support of domestic partner benefits. Lauren mentioned that the committee is researching underserved staff populations and staff voice. The committee is also looking into internal staff promotion paths. Finally, the committee is looking at child care options for staff.

Sustainability Adhoc Committee – Karen Blaney

Karen updated the Council on the installation of water bottle fillers on campus water fountains. Please send Karen an email if you know of an Elkay brand water fountain with a flat space in the rear of the fountain to have a water bottle filler installed.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

There is a question about the holiday schedule for University employees and how those dates are decided. Erika informed the Council that the number of days are determined by state legislation. State law says that there are 17 days that can be taken as holidays, however, if those holidays fall on a weekend, the number of holidays is reduced. Universities are allowed to use the available holiday days at winter break in lieu of taking off specific holidays during the year.

Meeting adjourns at 3:06 PM