



University of North Texas  
Staff Council Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2011  
Chilton 274

Members Present: Cheylon Brown, Jim Byford, Paul Goebel, Mikal Hensarling, Jennifer Lee, Xaviera Lofton, Lisa Martin, Stephanie McCane, Rachel McMullen, Scott Milligan, Rose Preston, Erasmo "Max" Rodriguez, Joanie Smith, , Hillary Talatzko, Amy Tannehill, Jackie Thames, Valerie Thornton, Amie Trahan, Mary Ann Venner, Margaret Vestal

Members Absent: Elvira Aguilar, Jaime Blanton, Ryan Ferguson, Chris Foster, Tina Garza, Nathan Hansard, Raymond Rowell, Uyen Tran

Guests: Melina Stucky (In House)

- I. Call to Order  
Hillary Talatzko called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of Minutes  
The minutes from the previous Staff Council meetings were approved as submitted.
- III. Announcement of Resignation of Chair and Special Election  
George Niebling has stepped down from Staff Council due to other commitments. Hillary has moved from Vice Chair to Chair due to George's departure. Jaime Blanton was the sole nomination to fill the vacant Vice Chair position. Her appointment was approved by the Council.
- IV. Officer Reports  
Valerie Thornton reported that the revised by-laws were approved by Rodney McClendon.
- V. Unfinished Business  
Discovery Park staff members want to be able to utilize the faculty/staff fitness program by walking on their campus instead of using the Pohl Recreation Center. It was determined that this is a policy issue and we need to conduct more research. We also need to look at whether it would create additional issues of staff on the main campus wanting to utilize the program without paying the Recreation Center fees.
- VI. Staff Council Organizational Research Project- Jaime Blanton and Paul Goebel  
A Communications subcommittee was formed with the interest of looking at how Staff Councils on other campuses communicated and best practices of our peer institutions. The project was spearheaded by Jaime Blanton and Paul Goebel. In total, 27 institutions were researched looking at a variety of areas including organizational structure, communications strategies, meeting structure, committee structure, campus partnerships and value added benefits or perks. The findings brought several questions to light regarding our formal processes, communication strategies, the needs of the staff and how we as a Council are supporting the University's

strategic planning effort. Each committee will have a role in helping us consider changes enabling us to best serve our constituents. The subcommittee's recommendations are that we conduct a needs assessment, present a rigorous public agenda for meetings and review our representation to ensure diversity. The committee charges will be:

- a. Communication: Formalize process for addressing staff concerns
- b. Staff Development: Revise a Staff Council orientation for members
- c. Elections: Identify representation structure based on geographic districts and ensure diverse representation
- d. By-Laws: Review attendance, structure and other policies to ensure transparency and that staff needs are being addressed

Some other questions and ideas brought up include hosting focus groups and town hall meetings to begin a staff needs assessment. We need to work on getting Staff Council on the campus' radar with a greater presence at University events and promoting ourselves and our accomplishments more.

VII. Staff Council Resolution for Rodney McClendon

Rodney McClendon is leaving the University. A resolution was proposed commending Dr. McClendon for his service to both the University of North Texas as a whole and also to the Staff Council. The resolution was passed by the Council. A framed copy along with a card will be presented to Dr. McClendon at his reception.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Communications- Scott Milligan brought up the recent In House story regarding the open Q&A sessions scheduled with the three candidates for the Director of Parking position.
- b. Perks- The committee contacted Human Resources about leave policies. They are also looking into the meal card deduction proposal. It was recommended that they talk to departments who have successfully implemented deduction plans such as Athletics. Lastly, the committee has compiled a list of businesses to contact about staff perks.
- c. Elections- The committee will be contacting current Council members up for re-election. They are also looking at the possibility of having an online election option.

IX. Announcements

Hillary brought the form for those interested in ordering Staff Council shirts.

X. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held at 3pm on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.