

University of North Texas
Staff Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2011
Team Meeting Room, Athletic Complex

Members Present: Elvira Aguilar, Jaime Blanton, Jim Byford, Ryan Ferguson, Chris Foster, Paul Goebel, Nathan Hansard, Mikal Hensarling, Jennifer Lee, Xaviera Lofton, Stephanie McCane, Scott Milligan, Rose Preston, Erasmo "Max" Rodriguez, Joanie Smith, Hillary Talatzko, Jackie Thames, Valerie Thornton, Amie Trahan, Mary Ann Venner, Margaret Vestal

Members Absent: Brandon Alarcon, Cheylon Brown, Tina Garza, Lisa Martin, Rachel McMullen, George Niebling, Raymond Rowell, Amy Tannehill, Uyen Tran

Guests: Melina Stucky (In House), Rick Villarreal (Athletic Director)

I. Call to Order

Hillary Talatzko called the meeting to order.

II. Guest Speaker

UNT Athletic Director Rick Villarreal spoke to the Council about the status of UNT athletics. The majority of the discussion and Q&A centered on the football program which has a new head coach and a new football stadium opening Fall 2011.

Mr. Villarreal addressed staff concerns regarding the new football stadium, including traffic, parking, ticket prices, wind turbines, and the future of Fouts Field. He requested Staff Council assistance with speaking engagements and opportunities to host departments or divisions at the athletic complex.

III. Officer Reports

Webmaster- Jennifer Lee - the Staff Council website has 700-800 visitors per month; visits range from 30 seconds to 1 hour. The perks program page is visited most often.

Secretary- Rachel McMullen – absent with apologies

Parliamentarian- Valerie Thornton – The required two votes have been conducted and the Staff Council by-laws were passed. The document has been forwarded to Dr. Rodney McClendon for administrative approval.

Vice Chair- Hillary Talatzko -

Chair- George Niebling – absent with apologies

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

The Executive Council met during the previous week and developed the following charges to Staff Council committees:

Staff Development: Repeat the successful undergraduate/graduate 101 workshops, and develop a GED 101 seminar.

Communication: Host staff meet & greet or mixer(s) for the spring. Mr. Villarreal volunteered the patio overlooking the new stadium for a mixer. The council discussed holding monthly mixers around campus.

Elections: The EOC codes are ready for the next election.

Bylaws: continue with the bylaws changes from Dr. McClendon.

Policy Review: continue working on all committees' operating procedures

Compensation & Benefits: continue to develop the perks program and send thank you notes to current perks vendors. Also, develop a Money Management 101 workshop for staff.

Perception of Staff Council on Campus: It has been determined that there is a not a clear understanding of how staff can communicate their issues with Staff Council members. There appears to be a need to market the Staff Council. Mixers, newsletters, and a think tank meeting were suggested. Paul Goebel will discuss a needs assessment and focus groups with the Institutional Research office.

Proposal for a Web-based Nominations and Elections System: A discussion of the viability of a web-based nominations and elections system included the requirement of a self-statement and photo of each candidate. The legality of using photographs as part of an election must be verified. There is a need for an alternative voting mechanism for staff members who do not use or have access to computers.

VI. Committee Reports

Staff Development: Amie Trahan reported on fundraising ideas from the Staff Development committee. Suggestions included a pancake breakfast at Clark Hall; a Valentine's Day dinner in the Union; selling Avesta cards; after-hours mixers in Avesta.

Staff Development sends a welcome letter to each new UNT employee. It was suggested that a Staff Council representative present information at every new employee orientation session.

VII. Announcements

Shirts: Staff Council members may purchase their own UNT-Staff Council shirt through Printing Services. Members who want to purchase a shirt should e-mail Hillary Talatzko or bring a check to the next Staff Council meeting. Information is on the Printing Services website.

VIII. Adjournment

Hillary Talatzko adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

The Council's next general meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2011.