

University of North Texas
Staff Council Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2010
University Union 418

Members Present: Elvira Aguilar, Jaime Blanton, Jim Byford, Ryan Ferguson, Paul Goebel, Michael Hensarling, Jennifer Lee, Lisa Martin, Stephanie McCane, Rachel McMullen, Scott Milligan, George Niebling, Rose Preston, Erasmo “Max” Rodriguez, Raymond Rowell, Joanie Smith, Hillary Talatzko, Jackie Thames, Valerie Thornton, Amie Trahan, Uyen Tran, Margaret Vestal

Members Absent: Brandon Alarcon, Cheylon Brown, Chris Foster, Tina Garza, Nathan Hansard, Xaviera Lofton, Amy Tannehill, Mary Ann Venner

Guests: Melina Stucky (In House), Joe Richmond (Parking and Transportation), Marci Bailey (HR), Brandi Renton (HR), Valini Singh (HR)

I. Call to Order

George Niebling called the meeting to order. His hope is to conclude the business portion of the general meetings within an hour so that the second hour can be used for committee meetings.

II. Constitution and By Laws

There will need to be a change in wording in the constitution due to the recent University restructuring. It was motioned that we table the discussion until we get additional information. Discussions will resume at the October meeting.

III. Parking/Faculty Staff Shuttle

Joe Richmond, Interim Director of Parking and Transportation, came to talk about the new faculty staff shuttle and other campus parking issues. Ridership of the express shuttle is steadily increasing. We need to continue to get the word out about it around the campus. The numbers for the on call shuttle aren't as promising but Joe is trying to think of new ways to advertise.

There was some discussion about loading zones and other short term parking options for campus deliveries. You can use the campus parking garage by the University Union for up to 30 minutes for free with validation from the Union Information Center. A new garage is being planned for the campus with 900 parking spots. Another option for campus delivery needs would be to call 565-3014 to request the on-call shuttle. You can also purchase meter cards to be used around campus. The cards are available in a variety of increments and can be purchased both by individuals and by departments.

IV. Homecoming

Homecoming is October 16th. We need to start working on our float and other ways to get Staff Council involved. The theme this year is Old School.

V. Toy Drive

The annual Toy Drive is also quickly approaching with kickoff slated for after Thanksgiving.

VI. Staff Appreciation

Staff Appreciation Week is November 1-4th. Brandi Reston from Human Resources talked about the activities planned for each day and the ways Staff Council can get involved and help. The theme this year is Discover the Power of You.

- a. The Kick Off celebration will be on Monday in the Silver Eagle Suite. Help is needed with set up and also someone to emcee the recognition portion of the ceremony.
- b. Tuesday is Thank You Tuesday with the focus on departments and colleges recognizing their staff. There will also be a pancake breakfast at 12:30am targeted primarily to overnight employees.
- c. Wednesday is Healthy You Wednesday with a focus on wellness and programs sponsored by the Rec Center. They need help with the party from 2-4pm.
- d. Thursday there will be campus tours highlighting some of the newer areas and buildings. There will be a party at Discovery Park in the morning and a party at the Life Science Building in the afternoon. They need help with the party at Discovery Park.
- e. Other ways to help include spreading the word, brainstorming as well as collecting monetary donations and raffle prizes. Athletics, Advancement and Dining Services have already committed donations.
- f. The Nominations and Elections committee will head up Staff Council participation.

VII. Perks Program

George is checking with the University General Counsel to make sure the Staff Council perks program is ok. From there, he would like us to proceed with the program and work on expanding it. An external company, Perk Spot, contact the Council a couple of years ago but we most likely will not have the money available to utilize them. We are also in the process of confirming the current perks list to make sure they are still valid.

VIII. Workshops

We want to repeat previous workshops as well as work on creating new ones if fiscally possible. Council members, start thinking of ideas for future workshops.

IX. Meal Plans

The Council was approached by staff members to see if it would be possible to use payroll deductions for meal plans. State law only allows deductions for parking and fitness. Council members need to ask their constituents to see how often on campus dining is used by staff.

X. Staff Council Representation

With shifts in EEO categories and classification changes, the Council needs to make sure there is a crosswalk for old and current categories and Council representation.

XI. Holidays

Questions have been raised by staff members regarding the University remaining open on Labor Day . The number of holidays allotted to universities and other state agencies is determined at the state level. The University Board approves how those holidays are used at our institution. The holiday schedule is currently set in three year increments but is only released on a year by year basis. Many staff members are not aware of the process and how the calendar is set. Communication needs to improve to help alleviate frustrations and misconceptions.

XII. Other Staff Concerns

- a. Compensation and Classification Study- Marci Bailey from Human Resources said Phase I was implemented September 1st, 2009. They are currently working with new consultants on job descriptions.
- b. Merit Retention- Marci said there has been no change in merit retention policy at this time but when a change is made the new policy with answer salary and job change concerns.
- c. Discovery Park Shuttle- Joe Richmond said a shuttle goes from Discovery Park to the main campus every 14 minutes. If you have a D or G parking permit, Discovery Park faculty and staff members can park at Fouts Field and use the express shuttle. If you have a DP permit, your permit will not allow you to park on the main campus which is why the permit is offered at such a discounted rate compared to other permits.

XIII. Committee Assignments

Committee assignments have been made. All committees need to elect chairs and notify Hillary Talatzko of your selection.

XIV. Adjournment