

University of North Texas
Staff Senate General Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014
Chestnut Hall, Room 324

Officers Present: Don Noska, Chair; Kristi Ormand, Vice Chair; Bonita White, Secretary; Cheryl Benningfield, Treasurer; Gary Payne, Webmaster/Historian; Pam Milner, Parliamentarian.

Members Present: Charles Andrews, Charlene Ballenger, Kathryn Beasley, Wayne Campbell, Amanda Dayton, Chris Deaton, Marjorie Donzello, Shae Ebrahimi, Darlene Hargrove, Jordan Harmon, Christi Hestand, Judy Hunter, Peter Kaiser, Missy McCormick, Rachel McMullen, Mark Packer, Tara Petty, Brett Robison, Eva Ruiz-Duvall, Kevin Sanders, Shana Savoie, Shannon Smith, Kimberly Srader, Kerry Stanhope, and Danielle Champagne (Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Michael Baggett, Lori Belew, Amy Fuller, Patricia Huckabee, Tracy Kaan, Shelby Kinsall, Keith Kopsky, Hilary Liscano, Gina Lowe, John McIntire, Gwendolyn Moore, Jessica Powell.

Guests Present: Geary Robinson (Parking), Matt Zabel (URCM).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Noska called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

- a. HR Update: Brandi Renton did not attend this meeting.
- b. Office Moves Around Campus: Cheryl Benningfield reported the Administrative Building moves are almost complete. Faculty Senate has relocated to Room 115 in Hurley.
- c. October Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved with a single correction – Christi Hestand was in attendance.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Communications – Shannon Smith reported approval has been given for (2) boxes to be placed on the 380 Corridor. Geocaching procedures are complete, will need to be approved and added to the By-laws.
- b. Elections & Bylaws – No report; have not met yet.
- c. Employee Relations – Christi Hestand reported they have defined goals; will report back on who is doing what.
- d. Staff Development – Kerry Stanhope reported on the qualitative results of the survey. Danielle Champagne added the quantitative results will be polished and ready for presentation/discussion at the December meeting, as they were completed by Cheryl and passed on to Danielle. Discussion was around making suggestions rather than feed the President a list of complaints upon his visit. Also, the Thanksgiving 2014 effort has been tabled, yet fundraising ideas are being discussed for 2015.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. FY15 Priority Goals Identified – The Chair elaborated on each of the following goals that were voted as top priority, and the group determined the charges/assignments.
 - i. Improving Operations: This goal will be assigned to the Executive Committee.

- ii. Improving Communication: This goal will be assigned to the Communications Committee.
- iii. Learning Functions of Divisions/Offices: This goal will be assigned to the Staff Development and Employee Relations Committees.
- iv. Mentoring New Staff Members: This goal will be assigned to the Staff Development Committee. A suggestion was expressed to consider adding this as an option in the Onboarding process. This would be a great way to gauge interest in the program. Another suggestion was to consider career development shadowing.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Christi Hestand asked if anyone attended the recent Sack Lunch and how did they feel about it. Responses included the following kudos – the President acknowledged all new employees; the VPs sat and mingled with the attendees; the Q&A was unscripted.
- b. Wayne Campbell questioned the best way to provide information to/solicit feedback from constituents. Input was provided in response. He also suggested Town hall meetings, and there was much dialogue. Social media is a viable resource for information sharing. Kerry Stanhope questioned how to create a ‘safe’ space for constituents’ verbalized expressions. Suggestions included ‘Spotlight Senators’ on the website. This would possibly include photos/bios; Meet & Greet with Coffee/Hot Chocolate/Ice Cream Socials.
- c. Staff Appreciation Month is February 2015, and the Senate needs to have an increased presence in this effort. It was suggested by Gary Payne that each Sub-Committee compose (3) ideas and submit them to the Chair.
- d. Reclassification submissions are due 11/15/14. It was requested that due to Brandi Renton’s absence, her presentation be shared electronically. This request will be passed on to her.
- e. Visitor, Geary Robinson from Parking was questioned about the Master Parking Plan. He provided information about the plans, steering committee, and filtered questions from Senate members. Parking works closely with the City on construction, traffic closures/re-routing, etc. He advised the Rideshare link is on the Parking & Transportation website.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. President Smatresk to visit 12/09/2014 Meeting, Chestnut 120A/B.
- b. Santa’s Helpers Toy Drive Box Wrap Party will be 11/24/2014, location TBD; Pick-Up 12/18/2014.
- c. Maria Hinojosa, a Radio/TV Journalist, on 11/17/2014, 8pm, Main Auditorium, as part of the DLS.
- d. Faculty Grant Process, open to Faculty, Staff & Students on 11/14/14 & 12/05/14.
- e. E&D Conference on 02/24/2015.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. After engaging dialogue and input from a vast number of attendees, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:50pm.