

University of North Texas
Staff Senate General Meeting Minutes
October 14, 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, Lori Belew, Wayne Campbell, Amanda Dayton, Chris Deaton, Marjorie Donzello, Shae Ebrahimi, Amy Fuller, Darlene Hargrove, Tracy Kaan, Peter Kaiser, Shelby Kinsall, Keith Kopsky, Rachel McMullen, Tara Petty, Brett Robison, Eva Ruiz-Duvall, Shana Savoie, Shannon Smith, Kimberly Srader, and Danielle Champagne (Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Michael Baggett, Carolyn Blevins, Joran Harmon, Christi Hestand, Patricia Huckabee, Judy Hunter, Spencer Keralis, Hilary Liscano, Gina Lowe, Missy McCormick, John McIntire, Gwendolyn Moore, Mark Packer, Jessica Powell, Kevin Sanders, and Kerry Stanhope.

Guests Present: Scott Windham, Rhonda Acker, Jennifer Spillman, Dennis Heller, Brandi Renton, Matt Z.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Noska called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

a. Santa's Helpers Toy Drive: Scott Windham, Rhonda Acker, and Jennifer Spillman.
We partner with WFAA each year for the toy drive. All toys stay in Denton County unless it is determined that Denton County has enough toys for local distribution. We delivered approximately 3500 toys in 2013, and hope to exceed that number this year. Important dates to remember – Monday, November 24, 2014, 7:30am, *Crumley Hall – donation boxes will be wrapped and delivered to various collection locations on campus. Friday, December 19, 2014, 12:00 pm, *Crumley Hall, Toys will be collected and sorted for delivery to Asbury United Methodist Church, Denton, TX. This is a great community service opportunity for your departments, as well as family members. CASH donations are accepted. *Chestnut Hall may be alternative site.

b. HR Update: Brandi Renton, Dennis Heller.
Brandi presented ideas for improvements in various areas that stem from an Operations-Infrastructure Group (from the President's recent roundtable event).
New Hire Orientation – providing each new hires with a 'how-to' informational packet, as well as a green t-shirt. Improving the new hire process (onboarding/offboarding), staff development and training, staff recognition events/awards, staff appreciation week. It has been proposed to combine some of the recognition and awards into a full month deemed Staff Appreciation Month. Great discussion/input from Senate members. A copy of Brandi's presentation is attached.

Dennis provided an explanation for the recent payroll Benefits deduction mishap. Although it seemed there were a great number of employees impacted. The additional funds will be recovered in the November paycheck.

c. Cheryl Benningfield will be glad to filter questions about the recent office moves on campus. This information will be posted on the website.

III. **OFFICER REPORTS**

- a. Vice Chair – No Report
- b. Secretary – No Report
- c. Treasurer – No Report
- d. Webmaster/Historian – No Report
- e. Parliamentarian – Reminder of the importance of meeting attendance.
- f. Chair – The Staff Development/Training Committee needs a representative from Staff Senate. Please send ideas/suggestions for Senate to the Chair.

IV. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Communications – Shannon Smith shared provided updated information on Geocaching.
- b. Elections & Bylaws – Have not met.
- c. Employee Relations – Lori Belew – Spoke on Committee Goals, Employee Dental Benefits, Discount tickets to professional sports competitions, as well as UNT sports, Administrative leave for community service involvement, Exit interviews – why are we losing employees, Carpool opportunities, Reclass/Growth.
- d. Staff Development – Amy Fuller – Spoke on ‘giving back’ to the UNT community through a Thanksgiving Meal giveaway for self-nominated employees. Possible pizza fundraiser to offset meal costs. Toy Drive and Back-to-school giveaways.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. FY15 Goals – Handout with (12) listed items, which were results for recent survey. It was moved and seconded to have the Executive Committee review to reduce/streamline.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS/CONSTITUENT CONCERNS**

A Constituent posed a parking concern – visiting potential and/or current donors are not provided free parking. This concern was discussed and will be forwarded to a Parking representative. There were no other voiced constituent concerns.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, November 11, 2014, Chestnut 324
- b. President Smatresk to visit December 14, 2014 meeting, Chestnut 120A/B. Please filter your questions in advance through the Chair.
- c. Student Health & Wellness Center are out of the flu vaccine.
- d. SECC Events on Senate Website: Lemonade Stand on 10/15; Photo Op on 10/28 behind Hurley. Departmental events posted on the Senate fb page. Please ‘like’ us and rate us on fb, per Gary Payne. George Takei visit on 11/27, part of DLS.

VIII. **STAFF SENATE PHOTO**

We walked from Chestnut to the Hurley Admin. Building for photos on the main stairway!

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at that location.