Minutes of Staff Council  
Tuesday, November 12, 2013  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Undergraduate Academic Center - Conference Room # 124

Attendees: Janell Laca, Sandra Brooks, Mark Burrow, Kevin Gilley, Noemi Govea, Noragene Green, Judy Herington, Amy Hilton, Ryan McAfee, Ricardo Mendez, Alison Mott, Marcus Pacheco, Meghan Parker, Scott Plough, Elizabeth Ramos, Ashley Ransom, Darrell Robinson, Denise Wagner

Absentees:  
Valerie Creveling, Jessica Henry, Sonya Kraus, Xavier Lopez, Paul Prince, Jodi Torrez, Carol Workman, Martin Zavala

Distinguished guest:  
Forensic Anthropology Center – Sophia Mavroudas  
Work Life Advisory Council – Roseann Mandziuk

Guests: Rose Trevino

Call to Order and Welcome:  
Staff Council Chair, Janell Laca, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She then turned over the floor over to Sophia from Forensic Anthropology.

Forensic Anthropology  
Sophia is the coordinator of the Forensic Anthropology Center she started there in 2011. She talked about all the different services that they provide to students and the outside world. They have workshops for body recovery, identifying human from non-human, Facial Reconstruction with Karen Taylor which has people coming from all over the world, K-9 human remains detection and many other workshops. They have the Outdoor Forensic Anthropology Research Facility at the Freeman Ranch, where they do decomposition research, and it is used as a teaching facility for students and law enforcement. On the Freeman Ranch they also have the Osteological Research and Processing Laboratory where they can do conferences and other outreach. They have the Grady Early Forensic Anthropology Research Laboratory where they house the skeletal collection that students use to learn about different aspects of Forensics and Anthropology. Other students from other schools also use the skeletal collection for learning. She told us that people can donate their bodies before they die and they can indicate how they want their body used. She talked about why the center is so beneficial to others in the same type of climate as ours.

Work Life Advisory Council  
Staff Council Chair, Janell Laca, thanked Sophia for the interesting information. She then turned over the floor over to Roseann Mandziuk to talk about Work Life Survey Results.

She gave us an overview of the results from 2 surveys, one done in 2004 and the other done last spring (2013). In 2004 we had a higher percentage of people that responded. They tried to keep the questions generally the same in both surveys. The answers to the question concerning general climate and culture have changed the most as far as what the staff believe the climate of the campus reflects. She introduced Rose Trevino as the contact person for Bobcat Balance questions. She talked a little about the Bobcat Balance program and the members had some direct questions that she answered.

Staff Council Chair, Janell Laca, thanked Roseann for the survey information.
Old Business

a. External Committees –

1. Professional Development meeting - Alison Mott attended this external committee and asked about implementing a basic budget workshop. If you have ideas for professional development workshops please let the professional development group know. Also these workshops can be taught by internal as well as external instructors. We had someone mention that it would be nice to have some of the classes during lunch because some people have back to back meetings all day and can’t go to the classes that are really long.

2. Transportation meeting – They talked about carpooling and that replacement electronic entry cards have gone from $10 to $25. Other things discussed was the circle in front of JCK as well as 2 new stop signs on west campus.

3. Energy Conservation meeting will be held tomorrow.

b. New Texas State Employee Discount Program – People are wondering about local businesses are not on Beneplace. Beneplace should be contacting local businesses to see if they want to join. Staff Council members can enter recommended businesses onto the Beneplace website as a referral and those businesses will be contacted.

New Business

a. Future Meeting Presentations – December will be the Texas State School Safety group. Also suggested can be brought forward by the Staff Council members.

b. HR Bulletin Announcements - HR is allowing us to have a paragraph in the bulletin that we will spotlight some teams from the university. December will be the Lock Shop and the public relations team will be in charge of creating the article for the bulletin.

c. Treasurer Report – Alison Mott gave the report and said we are in good shape for the scholarships and fundraising. No monies coming in but we purchased an Old Main blanket for the health fair and money went out for scholarship.

d. Approval of the October 2013 minutes. - We had a motion to table the approval until council could read them. We will vote on them in December. Also noted that had wrong day of the week in the minutes.

e. Bobcat Pause - they would like a staff council member to read the staff members names that have passed in the last year. Bobcat pause will be on April 9, 2014.

Committee Reports

a. By-Laws/UPPS - The UPPS Committee has been very busy reviewing policies. There was discussion concerning members being allowed to attend Staff Council meetings. The Bylaws mention attendance at the meetings should be treated as work time, but Janell will research this further.

b. Compensation – report by Ryan. His committee had a meeting to talk about things they would like to bring up to HR. They are interested in making performance evaluations more similar across the board. There was discussion of merit raises, and the concept of “Personal Days.”

c. Elections – They will be meeting to make changes to the online application.

c. Fundraising – After a discussion on when and what, there was motion to spend $1,500 to
buy candy for staff council members to sell. It was seconded and passed by a majority vote to sell candy as our fundraiser this fall.

d. Scholarship/Awards – no report

e. Online Technology – They are hoping to have pictures and member updates on site by December.

f. Orientation – no report

g. Perks – no report

i. Public Relations – Shirt survey will be sent out again. We had a majority vote for nice polo shirt so we need to vote again between two different polo’s

j. Transportation & Parking – Information provided earlier under External Committee information.

12:00 Adjournment

*If you have an issue to bring before the Staff Council and would like to be added to our next agenda, please contact staffcouncil@txstate.edu.

*All minutes can be accessed by going to http://www.staffcouncil.txstate.edu/meetings/minutes.html

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