



Staff Council General Meeting
Tuesday, March 15th, 2016
UNEA 102a Acacia Room, 2:00PM – 3:30PM

I. Call to order – **2:09 pm**

II. Guest Speaker – Alumni Association

- Sandra Covarrubias and Liliana Barrios
 - The Alumni Association is constantly working on improving ways to provide the best service and benefits to their members. By providing a connection across campus, local and nationwide members of the Alumni Association are able to receive great discounts on special events such as: The Dinner Theater, Special Events, El Paso Live, Local Restaurants, Ticket Monster, Cinemark, etc.
 - The association has roughly 5,000 members in which 3,000 are local members. This shows the great growth of UTEP Alumni and how they are not only around the United States but around the world.
 - Memberships are sold in 3 different categories, also you may purchase the membership online or at the Alumni Association Office.
 - Centennial Lifetime, which gets the 1st perk benefits on discounts, sales, invitations to events, etc.
 - Lifetime (2nd in line for perk benefits)
 - Annual (3rd in line for perk benefits)
 - Part of the benefits of the Alumni Association are the constant events like the homecoming golden nugget reception, tailgating parties, picnics, etc. to bring together alumni. Most recently an Ice Cream Social event will be taking place on March 30th in which you may purchase your membership with a secret deal that will benefit you.
 - The Alumni Association is not only in charge of such but also runs the Parent Association, as well as organizations and groups among the chapters that can cultivate and engage the members.
 - There are currently around 12 to 13 active groups which are located within the campus, locally, nationally and globally.
 - There are special interest groups that interact with the members as it best fits their needs and/or interests
 - Members are welcome to join whatever chapter accommodates best to them.
 - Constant social and professional development programs are created as well as events in order to bring back alumni and be able to gather accurate data on UTEP alumni who might be presently working for the university.

III. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Paul Adame 1st to approve meeting minutes, Maria Hernandez 2nd.

IV. Executive reports

A. Chair – **Ben Carnevale**

- a. General announcements
 - i. Presidential Staff Forum

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1. After speaking to Patti Martinez, Dr. Natalicio's secretary. The forum will still be on the agenda for May 26. The event will most likely take place in the UGLC and in the afternoon. Confirmation of date and location will be provided as a final confirmation gets provided.
 2. David Porras, will be leading the organization and planning of the forum. The main target of the forum is for it to be a Q&A forum in which staff can participate. David Porras, would like to have the committee assembled by the end of March.
 3. According to data and what people have mentioned the last forum that the President provided for staff was more than 10 years ago.
- ii. 2016 -2017 Research Committee topics
1. The request of possible topics for the research committees is open.
 2. One of the possible topics to cover will be the health insurance. More in specific, the committee will probably address the constant increase that has been found on the health insurance's copayment
- B. Vice Chair – **Paul Adame**
- a. Textbook Scholarship
 - i. There is no update on number of applicants. At this point there are no applications submitted. The council is in hopes to see applications as the fall semester gets closer.
- C. Treasurer's report
- a. Account update – the current balance is \$4,333.34 that balance is after the expenses for the recent events like the hot cocoa and Dr. Mitchell's event.

V. Old Business

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Elections – **Maria Hernandez**
- a. District Outreach sample questions- the possible idea to do provide an explanation on the distribution of districts is suggested so people can better understand the difference between blue and orange districts.
 - b. Elections for Orange Districts
 - c. 2nd Orange district invite to be made April 6th – 8th
- B. Communication – **Ben Carnevale**
- a. Brenda Sanchez had to resign as chair and staff council member for personal reasons. At this point, the committee has no chair. Due to the back that the Executive Committee members can't be chair on other committees, Ben Carnevale will be the interim chair while the council can find someone to assume the role.
 - b. New newsletter format- the format of the newsletter is finally redesigned. So far a lot of compliments have been given as it appears to look more professional and organized.
 - c. Possibility of adding a Directors section to the newsletter- During the Executive Committee meeting, the idea of possibly creating a section for the directors was given. The purpose of this section is to have some input from the directors towards the staff that can be very beneficial and informative.
 - d. April newsletter content- the content for the newsletter is almost ready. Some information is pending, however majority of it has been completed.
- C. Research Committee – Parking and Transportation Update – **Tiffany Henley**
- a. SC Comm. committee/P&T quarterly meeting – March- during the meeting there was a part of the conversation in which the possibility of people who park in the green zone can park closer to campus during sessions when the miner shuttle is not running. The committee

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members have been trying to find such policy on the website but nothing has been found at this moment. Further research will be done to find better information in regards to this matter.

- b. Maintenance Schedule progress- No schedule has even been created. The P&T staff went around campus and evaluated what was needed as well as proposed a schedule in which it can be run by level of priority
- c. Review of questions asked by staff to P&T – The questions provided back in September have not been answered. The committee worked on generalizing the questions and creating 5 main questions with the idea that hopefully that will allow for P&T to answer sooner. At this point no answers have been answered yet.
- D. Research Committee – Tuition Assistance for Family Members Update – **Karla Iscapa**
 - a. Updated progress on research – UT Arlington used to have that program so the committee is gathering data on the number of staff members that do take advantage of it.
 - b. The committee is also looking for ideas of how funding can be given.
- E. EAC – Meeting in Austin, Feb 28 – March 1 Update – **Karla Iscapa**
 - a. Karla Iscapa was elected as the Vice Chair of the UT Systems
 - b. The recent meeting was a time in which they noticed the lack of participation from members. Their focus is on finding ways in which members can be brought back and work on the leadership of the EAC.
 - c. The current committees are for the UT Wide Staff Recognition Program. They are currently working on finding money, statistics, and information.

VII. New Business

VIII. MISC (comments, announcements, accomplishments, etc.)

- a. Florina Barnett from HR will be presenting in next month's general meeting.

IX. Adjournment – motion to adjourn called by Karla Iscapa first, Lourdes Sanchez second motion. **3:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Adame, Ben Carnevale, Ana Diaz, Maxie Starr Flores, Carlos Gonzales, Tiffany Henley, Maria Hernandez, Karla Iscapa, Luis Martinez, Maria Placencia, David Porras Jr, Lourdes Sanchez

NON-MEMBERS: Amaris Barker, Norma Garcia, Antonio Martinez, Claudia Oliva

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