

The University Staff Advisory Council
Minutes
August 19, 2009

Representatives and Alternates Attending:

Ingrid Frazier – District 14 – rep – Chair
Aris Obar – District 9 – rep – Secretary
Katy Cline – District 10 – rep – Chair-elect
Jennifer Adams – District 13 – rep
Jan Harp – District 12 – alternate
Brandy Monts – District 12 – rep
Linda Speed – District 2 – rep
Rich Legler – District 5 – rep
Glenda Bennett – District 7 – alternate
Michael Gannaway – District 15 – alternate
Page Chapman – District 5 – alternate
Sheryl Marshall – District 3 – rep
Warren Garlock – District 8 – rep
Chris Green – District 8 – alternate
Dayna Lambright – District 1 – alternate
Tammie Cooper – District 4 – rep
Beth Bruce – District 13 – alternate
Dr. Fos – V.P. for Academic Affairs
Jesse Acosta – Chief of Staff
Joe Vorsas – ex-officio
Gregg Lassen – V.P. for Business Affairs

Reps and Alternates Not Attending:

Leslie Nelson – District 11 – rep
Melanie Mogle – District 14 – alternate
Michelle Flanagan – District 2 – alternate
Pedro Flores – District 6 – alternate
Angie Beekman – District 11 – alternate
Pam Taylor – District 4 - alternate
Janet Robertson – District 9 – alternate
Michael Seale – District 6 – rep
Belinda Dean – ex-officio
Vacant – District 10 – alternate
Monica Davis – District 3 – alternate
Paula Hibbert – District 1 – rep
Pam Jones – District 15 – rep
Andrea Jenkins – District 7 – rep

Ingrid Frazier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Michael Gannaway to approve the minutes of the July meeting and was seconded by Linda Speed.

Dr. Fos and Jesse Acosta presented certificates and a special campus coin to recognize council members who had completed their council terms. Warren Garlock, Michael Gannaway, Chris Green and Pam Jones received awards.

Old Business

The summer activity held on August 14th was a success and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. Council members (with the help of Gregg Lassen) cooked and/or served 215 hot dogs and 75 snow cones.

New Business

The recipient of the UT Tyler Star award for August is Sheryl Marshall in Civil Engineering.

Joe Vorsas announced effective September 1st; our Employee Assistance Program would be administered by UT Advantage. They will offer expanded services and additional specialists to assist employees with a variety of issues at no cost to the employee.

Gregg Lassen updated the council on several issues. He confirmed that Barnes and Noble would be operating the bookstore effective September 1st. He also advised that the Chick-fil-A restaurant would be opening in the UCN in mid-September. Gregg also expressed his appreciation to all staff members who have sacrificed in order to hold expenses down through the end of the budget year. Thanks to the efforts of all employees, UT Tyler will end its fiscal year in the black.

Aris Obar and Michael Gannaway updated the council on the Employee Advisory Council meeting held in Austin on July 30th and 31st. The EAC is composed of 32 members- 2 staff from each university and health system component in the UT system and meets 3 times per year. Dan Stewart, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Employee Benefits and Services advised the council about legislative issues and how they might affect the UT system. In other matters, one of the major committee issues addressed this year was tuition assistance for the various campuses and health components. Tuition assistance varies widely between the different institutions. Surprisingly, UT Austin does not offer staff tuition assistance and UT Tyler has one of the best tuition programs. Another major issue that UT system is very interested in is the promotion of wellness. Since our health insurance is self-funded, UT System is very interested in promoting wellness to bring down the costs of health insurance claims. Rolando Roman, the Wellness coordinator for

UT System talked about the importance and benefits of health insurance participants logging on to the Living Well website and filling out the health risk assessment. Employees should expect to continue to see new initiatives, such as the free colonoscopy benefit this year, aimed at encouraging all employees to be more proactive about preventative care. Recognition was given to members who were leaving the council due to term expirations and the EAC also elected new officers for 2009-2010. A highlight of the meeting was the opportunity for members of the EAC to have dinner with Chancellor Cigarroa at his residence. It was the first time that an Employee Advisory Council had ever been invited to the UT Chancellor's home. The Chancellor seemed to be very interested in encouraging communication between the different institutions and believes strongly in the importance of staff councils. The next EAC meeting will take place in October. Staff members are encouraged to contact Aris or Michael if they have any issues or programs they would like to see addressed by the Employee Advisory Council.

Ingrid reminded members that the Meet Your Rep function will take place on September 23rd in the UCN ballroom from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and that the Staff Development workshop is scheduled for November 19th and 20th at the Ornelas Activity Center.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Michael Gannaway and seconded by Warren Garlock.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 2:00 p.m. in ADM 301.