

The University Staff Advisory Council
Minutes
October 15, 2008

Representatives and Alternates Attending:

Ingrid Frazier – District 14 – rep – Chair-elect
Aris Obar – District 9 – rep – Secretary
Glenda Bennett – District 7 – alternate
Jan Harp – District 12 – alternate
Margo Duncan – District 1 – alternate
Paula Hibbert – District 1 – rep
Amy Birdsong – District 3 – rep
Page Chapman – District 5 – alternate
Rich Legler – District 5 – rep
Sheryl Marshall – District 3 – alternate
Andrea Jenkins – District 7 – rep
Janet Robertson – District 9 – alternate
Pam Jones – District 15 – rep
Kelley Hartnett – District 10 – rep
Warren Garlock – District 8 – rep
Sergio Padilla – District 13 – rep
Judy Beam – District 4 – alternate
Jesse Acosta – Chief of Staff
Gregg Lassen – V.P. for Business Affairs
Dr. Peter Fos – Provost and V.P. for Academic Affairs

Reps and Alternates Not Attending:

Linda Speed – District 2 – rep
Michelle Flanagan – District 2 – alternate
Andi Liner – District 4 – rep – Chair
Michael Seale – District 6 – rep
Pedro Flores – District 6 – alternate
Chris Green – District 8 – alternate
Katy Cline – District 10 – alternate
Angie Beekman – District 11 – rep
Vacant – District 11 – alternate
Brandy Monts – District 12 – rep
Jennifer Adams – District 13 – alternate
Melanie Mogle – District 14 – alternate
Michael Gannaway – District 15 – alternate
Belinda Dean – ex-officio
Joe Vorsas – ex-officio

Ingrid Frazier, Chair-elect, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Dr. Peter Fos, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced himself to the council and updated the members on the importance of the SACS accreditation process to the future of UT Tyler.

Jesse Acosta, Chief of Staff, addressed the council about door access cards and the card deactivation schedule. He advised the council that it is now possible for the requestor to see the status of their work request after the request has been made. He also advised that the system has been changed so that door access cards will be automatically deactivated based on the deactivation date on the initial request.

Gregg Lassen, Vice President for Business Affairs, addressed the council about parking issues and gave a general overview about the status of parking availability on campus. He advised that although the availability of parking space seems inadequate at peak class times, there is adequate parking for overall university use. Campus police continue to enforce parking violations to inhibit use of faculty parking by students. He also advised that staff should be aware that parking spaces around the UC will be greatly reduced beginning in Spring 2009 as renovations begin on the original University Center building. There will still be adequate parking in other lots around the university.

Old Business

A motion was made by Pam Jones to accept the minutes of the September 17th meeting and was seconded by Amy Birdsong.

Chief Medders responded in writing to several questions about parking and traffic issues. A copy of his reply is attached.

At the last meeting, an objection was raised to several permanently reserved parking spaces for GNOAC in parking lot # 4 . Those spaces are no longer reserved and have been repainted to allow normal faculty/staff parking use.

Feedback was given on the Meet Your Rep socials. These socials were held on or near Oct. 3rd by each district so that district members could meet their 2008-2009 representatives and alternates. Reps advised that the various socials were well attended but several members expressed disappointment at not being able to mingle with staff outside of their own departments. The council will consider going back to one large Meet Your Rep social for Fall of 2009.

Congratulations were extended to Amy Dushmanack for her selection as the October UT Star.

New Business

Committee Assignments

Volunteers were requested to fill vacant committee openings on the Staff Development Workshop, Nominations and Communications committees. Jan Harp, Ingrid Frazier and Andrea Jenkins volunteered to staff the Staff Development Workshop committee. Paula Hibbert volunteered for the Nominations committee and Kelley Hartnett volunteered for the Communications committee.

Staff Development Workshop

The Staff Development workshop has been schedule for Nov. 20th and 21st with speaker, Dr. Mark Taylor. His subject will be “Generation NeXt Comes to College”. The workshop will be held at the Ornelas Activity Center. The website for Dr. Taylor is www.taylorprograms.org. All participants agreed to make the theme of the workshop, “Generation NeXt: The New Frontier”. All council members and alternates will be involved in assisting the Staff Development Workshop committee with the implementation of the workshop.

Know Your Numbers Cards

Know Your Numbers cards were given to each council member for distribution to each staff member in their respective districts. These cards allow members to record various health statistics such as cholesterol, blood pressure and body mass index. This is part of the Living Well initiative supported by the University of Texas System which provides employees, retirees and dependents at all University of Texas System Institutions the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive and integrated health improvement program. More information can found at:
http://www.utsystem.edu/benefits/health/vision/LW_vision.htm

Kelley Hartnett advised that District 10 needs to be revised now that Academic Advising reports to Academic Affairs instead of Student Affairs.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam Jones and seconded by Paula Hibbert at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2008.

QUESTIONS RAISED REGARDING PARKING
CHIEF MEDDERS RESPONSE

Question: I am concerned about the traffic generated at the main entrance and Old Omen. Are there any plans for a traffic light being installed?

Answer: As far as a traffic light being installed at the main entrance, I have not been in recent contact with the City of Tyler concerning this issue. I know that the re-design of the entrance made traffic movement on Old Omen much safer since it relieved the bottleneck that we experienced previously there. I realize a traffic light is an option but the City of Tyler would have to conduct a study and find it feasible to install one. I will check on this and see what the status is. What is the major problem at this time?

Question: Parking seems to still be a big concern. Students are parking in employee spots and it is very difficult to find a place if we leave at lunch.

Answer: In reference to students parking in employee spots, we enforce as much as possible. We are short on manpower right now but we have written many, many tickets this semester, and a large majority of those are for parking in reserved faculty/staff spaces. In order to deter students from violating the parking rules, I believe that an increase in fine amounts would be a good start. Fine amounts have not been raised in years, and sometimes the student does a cost-benefit analysis and decides to risk the fine, knowing in most cases they will go undetected. Of course this is something that would have to be approved at a much higher level than me, but I do plan to recommend an increase in fine amounts as a deterrent.

Question: Could several of the visitor spaces at each building be designated temporary parking, 15 to 30 minutes, for individuals that need to get in and out quickly? Many Instructors and those that have work off campus find it difficult to make a short trip into campus if something is needed.

Answer: I would not be in opposition to designating some visitor spots as temporary parking if it would solve a problem. However, there would be no way to enforce the temporary time limit without having someone out there at all times, which obviously is not an alternative. And these spots would be abused, much like the faculty/staff spots are currently. We frequently have to reserve spots for visitors to campus for various events, and in reality we do not have enough visitor spots as it is to accommodate all requests.