

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE



Minutes – October 11, 2007

Senators Present: Graciela Abrego, Mayra Barrera, Ricardo Camargo, Maribeth Deese, Lynne Depeault, Maria Espinoza, Jaime Faz, Hilda Flores, Corina Garcia, Sandra Garcia, Christy Garza, George Garza, Neely Gomez, Dina Guerra, Yanet McClanahan, Guadalupe Meza, Juan Andres Rodriguez, Eidee Salinas, Emilia Taylor

Senators Absent: Diana Bustamante, Sergio Chavez, Martie DiGregorio, Bill Harris, Milagro Hernandez, Mary Manzano

Guest: Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Douglas Stowe, Director of Residence Life, Chet Lewis, Associate Vice President, Business Affairs, Linda Cox, Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, and Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dalilah Garcia, Center for Civic Engagement

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Juan Andres Rodriguez at 2:04. A change to the agenda was made. Dr. Ragland made the first presentation.

Presentations:

State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC)

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland addressed the senate concerning SECC. The campaign period has begun and is well on its way. The State Wide Charitable Campaign allows state employees to make contributions through payroll deductions to the charities of their choice. Last year, for the first time, we, The TSC Foundation, were on there for scholarships and they were able to give a Scorpion Family Scholarship this year. The drawing was held at the General Staff assembly. The money for these scholarships comes from those donations. There are over 500 charitable organizations and The TSC Foundation is one of them. Dr. Ragland mentioned that they have a \$30,000 goal for this year. Last year they reached \$23,000 and from that over \$9,000 went to the TSC Foundation. She encouraged for everyone to look at the packets and fill out the paper work for payroll deduction and choose the charities which you wish to contribute to. Mr. Doug Stowe explained the different ways to make contributions, the easiest being payroll deduction.

Tuition Policy Advisory Committee

Chet Lewis, Linda Cox and Dr. Dameron spoke about the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee. They explained the process in which departments request for fee increases. This is done every two years. The Committee is composed of approximately 20 persons. Mr. Lewis, Ms. Cox, and Dr. Dameron explained the difference between Compulsory Fees, Incidental Fees, and other fees and the requested increases, changes or deleted fees. Staff Senate was given a calendar for future meetings concerning fee recommendations.

Center for Civic Engagement postponed due to technical difficulties

Approval of Minutes

The July 26, 2007 minutes were presented for review. A motion was made by Lynn Depeault to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Eidee Salinas. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Gracie Abrego presented the Treasures Report. Account Number 11-5-1-200040 (appropriated for supplies only) beginning balance \$1,000, purchases, \$68.99 (Award for Past Staff Senate Chair), ending balance is \$931.01. Account number 12-8-1-200040 (scholarship account) beginning balance \$6444.35, scholarships awarded, \$1,700.00, ending balance 4,744.35.

Committee Reports

Juan Andres and Nelly requested that committee member chair submit the dates of committee meetings and reports to Nelly Gomez one week prior to Staff Senate Meetings.

Academic Affairs Partnership Committee

No report.

Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Meeting scheduled for October 22nd

Calendar Committee

Meeting scheduled for October 16th

Civic Engagement Advisory Committee

No report.

Communications Committee

No report.

Enrollment Management Advisory Committee

No report.

Exceptional Merit Committee

No report.

Holiday Calendar Committee

No report.

Holiday Social (Picnic)

Pending Approval for Participation

HOOP Updates Committee

No report.

Institutional Effectiveness Committee

No report.

Nominations & Elections Committee

No report. They will be meeting to elect a chair

Parking Committee

Met September 19th...addressed 10 appeals and set up next meeting date.

Salary Market Adjustment Committee

No report.

Scholarship Committee

No report.

Student Affairs Partnership Committee

No Report.

TSC Board

Juan Andres attended the TSC meeting. Dr. Garcia was evaluated and received an A+. Changes were made on the TSC discount on tuition. Discounts (TSC Trustee Scholarship) will only be given if student met SAP and includes upper division classes.

University Council

Juan Andres attended and main discussion is again on SAP. Everyone is involved in helping students succeed.

UT System Employee Advisory Committee

Olga Garcia and Juan Andres attended this meeting on August 2nd & 3rd. Many topics were discussed. Issues that relate to UTB included compulsory time and the salary differential. Olga sat on the special projects committee when included wellness.

Fundraising Committee

No report.

Old Business (Goals for the year)

Juan Andres reminded staff senate about the calendar that is posted on the website. State comp time survey will be done by UT system. Most systems have comp time policy in place but they are all different. HOOP Committee will be reviewing this item. Base merit increase differential between faculty and staff is being reviewed. Staff Senate needs to be firm on asking for same increase. Salary Study is working on getting to the 90 Percentile.

New Business

Reviewed topics discussed at the General Assembly. Parking Committee is asked to review the question about why we pay for parking on campus. Juan Andres did an informal survey and UTB is one of the lowest parking fees. He also found out that the fees are used for maintenance. HOOP Committee will research and find in writing the reason UTB does not require drug testing. Juan Andres mentioned there will be a frequently asked questions listed on our website. The next topic was why staff that received exceptional merit and were reclassified did not receive the 5% increase. Exceptional Merit will be addressing this concern. This committee will also review if faculty can receive exceptional merit and promotion in the same year. Another topic is JAQ process. Staff needs to know what the process is, the time line, etc. This will be reviewed by the HOOP committee. ITS is a new district. Dr. Chen oversees it and he reports to the Provost. Juan Andres asked for motion to include ITS in the constitution. Richard motioned to include ITS, Emilia seconded.

Constituent’s questions and/or comments

Corina Garcia reported that advising would be moving to the Lightner Center this month.

Announcements

Graduate Fair on October 25

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Maribeth Deese and seconded by Ms. Emilia Taylor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christy Garza, Staff Senate Secretary

ABSENCES			
October 11, 2007	November 8, 2007	December 13, 2007	January 25, 2008
Diana Bustamante Sergio Chavez Martie DiGregorio Bill Harris Milagro Hernandez Mary Manzano			

ABSENCES			
February 14, 2008	March 20, 2008	April 10, 2008	May 15, 2008

ABSENCES			
June 12, 2008	July 10, 2008		