

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE



Minutes – November 8, 2007

Senators Present: Diana Bustamante, Ricardo Camargo, Sergio Chavez, Maribeth Deese, Lynne Depeault, Maria Espinoza, Hilda Flores, Corina Garcia, Christy Garza, George Garza, Nelly Gomez, Bill Harris, Milagro Hernandez, Guadalupe Meza, Juan Andres Rodriguez, Eidee Salinas,

Senators Absent: Graciela Abrego, Mayra Barrera, Martie DiGregorio, Jaime Faz, Sandra Garcia, Dina Guerra, Mary Manzano, Yanet McClanahan, Emilia Taylor

Guest:

Dalilah Garcia, Center for Civic Engagement – Connecting the campus to the community
Amanda Fuhro – Tuition Assistance Changes

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Juan Andres Rodriguez at 2:11.

Presentations:

Center for Civic Engagement – Dalilah Garcia – Connecting the campus to the community.

Ms. Delilah Garcia had a presentation for Staff Senate explaining the mission that Center for Civic Engagement has. Center for Civic Engagement would like to have an open dialogue between them and the staff senate. Their mission is to create an engaged campus. They have several initiatives like service learning, scholarships, and community partners. Delilah finished her presentation with a question for the Staff Senate: How does the staff Senate assist the CCE and the community. One suggestion was having a UTB volunteer day once every semester; another suggestion was made by Juan Andres. He suggested instead of an in-service day to have a volunteer day throughout the community.

Tuition Assistance Changes – Amanda Fuhro

With tuition and staff increasing the Tuition assistance program is running into difficulties in funding everyone that applies for tuition assistance. In the past the university has been very generous whenever they would run out of money but that is not the case any longer. New eligibility criteria are being used, same criteria that is being used for other scholarships. One suggestion to the tuition assistance is that eligible employees who applied and did not get assistance in one semester be the first in line the following semester. That did not get approved. Another change is employees can apply for tuition assistance for a total of 6 credit hours for the year. It was previously 9 hours. There was much discussion on the pros and cons.

Revision of new constitution

Staff Senate broke into teams to review the new constitution.

Teams were as follows:

- 1 - 5 Millie, Corina, Lynn, Diana
- 6 Hilda, Maria, Maribeth, Eidee
- 7 - 8 Bill, Sergio, George
- 9 - 10 Lupe, Nelly, Ricardo
- 11-13 Dr. Zavaleta, Juan Andres

Committee Reports

Committee Reports tabled for next month.

New Business

Motorcycle drivers will be having a meeting for organizing a parking lot for motorcycles this weekend.

Reminder: If January 2, 2009 is given as a holiday, pay day will be January 5.

Discussion was held over holiday versus skeleton crew.

Two more persons are needed for the calendar committee.

Announcements

Teacher Job Fair on November 9th.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill and seconded by Sergio. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 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	Graciela Abrego Mayra Barrera Martie DiGregorio Jaime Faz Sandra Garcia Dina Guerra Mary Manzano Yanet McClanahan Emilia Taylor		

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

ABSENCES			
June 12, 2008	July 10, 2008		