

## **STAFF SENATE**

Minutes – Retreat held on October 14, 2016

The Staff Senate retreat convened on Friday, October 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Harlingen Auditorium 1.100.

Senators Present: Michael Aldape, Robert Cantu, Orlando Castañeda, Selene Castro, Veronica de la Garza, Peter James (PJ) Ehimika, David Elizondo, Maria Espinoza, DeAnna Garza, Nelly Gomez, Milton Hernandez, Alicia Morley, Silverio Nieto, Bianca Otero, Lisa Peña, Gilbert Perez, Lisa Smith, Linda Ufland

Senators Absent: Jose Oscar Barrera, Javier Zambrano

Special Guests: Dr. Janna Arney-VP for Operations and Chief of Staff, Mike James-Chief HR Officer, Doug Arney-Sr. Assoc. VP for Operations

The meeting was called to order by past chair Mr. Sergio Chavez.

The Staff Senate retreat is an unofficial meeting where the current and past Senators are introduced, Senators review the Constitution and the nomination and elections of officers takes place. After the induction of the new officers, the Committees are set up and other items are addressed.

Dr. Arney, along with Mr. James and Mr. Arney explained the new FSLA guidelines and when employees would be notified. They also discussed the soft hiring freeze that has been implemented throughout the University due to the drop of Graduate enrollment as well as some pending financial obligations from the legacy institutions.

Mr. Michael Aldape led an activity called Think, Pair, Share which assisted the Senators in getting to know each other (icebreaker).

Sergio Chavez, past Chair of the UTB Senate, read and explained the Constitution to the Senate. He also explained how this Constitution was set up with past Senators from both legacy institutions, UTB and UTPA.

Sergio Chavez with the assistance of Ms. Selena Castro held elections for Staff Senator Officers:

President: Michael Aldape  
Vice President: Lisa Smith  
Co-Secretaries: Maria Espinoza and Alicia Morley  
Treasurer: Nelly Gomez  
Historian: Bianca Otero  
Parliamentarian: Peter James (PJ) Ehimika

The afternoon portion of the retreat focused on setting up future meeting dates, the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., alternating campuses for meeting sites.

The Committees were established along with member sign-up:

- Fundraising Committee
- Communications Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Salary Study
- Events Committee

- Constitution Committee
- Staff Development
- Business Processes

Lisa Smith provided an update regarding the Staff Senate website and the inclusion of a feedback forum. Anonymous submittals are possible. The goal is to allow for dialogue with the senate, feedback and responses.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.