

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

4/12/2017

Harlingen Campus-Auditorium 1.100

Guest Presenters:

- Mr. Doug Arney-Sr. Assoc. VP for Operations
- Mr. Mike James – Chief Human Resources Officer
- Dr. Janna Arney- Deputy President

Senators Present:

Michael Aldape, Oscar Barrera, Selene Castro, Veronica de la Garza, Peter James (PJ) Ehimika, Maria Espinoza, Nelly Gomez, Milton Hernandez, Alicia Morley, Silverio Nieto, Bianca Otero, Lisa Peña, Gilbert Perez, Lisa Smith, Linda Ufland, Javier Zambrano

Senators Absent:

Robert Cantu, Orlando Castañeda, DeAnna Garza

Meeting:

- Michael called meeting to order 9:42 am
- Establishment of Quorum:
 - Maria conducted roll call of senators to establish quorum; Robert Cantu, Orlando Castañeda and DeAnna Garza were absent.
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Veronica de la Garza motioned to approve; Nelly Gomez seconded motion to approve minutes with minor correction
 - Meeting minutes will be corrected and posted on website
- Public Comments & Questions Received:
 - Michael Aldape announced that there were 18 emails/submission to the “We Want to Hear from You” campaign for all constituents. A spreadsheet will be made for questions to bring forward to Administration. He stated that this a good approach for the Senate to hear from Staff, and it shows that people are reading our emails and paying attention to what we are doing as a Senate.
- Committee Reports
 - Business Processes and Procedures:

- Ms. Selene Castro announced that the Business Processes Committee is ready to send out the survey to staff but are waiting for approval from leadership. She also stated that there was a consensus that we need to focus on the processes over the summer and send to leadership.
 - Michael added that he will get in touch with Dr. Arney so we could move forward on this purpose
- Communications Committee:
 - Ms. Bianca Otero asked that we continue to get Senators and colleagues to “like” us on FB as this is the only social media network that we have. She also stated that will continue working with Maria and Alicia to get all the approved minutes on the website, and for those Senators to please contact her to set up their portrait schedule.
- Events Committee:
 - Has not met, it was reported that they will try and continue with the raspa social in the latter part of August.
- Fundraising Committee:
 - It was reported that they are trying to find ways on how to raise funds as there are several rules and restrictions that we need to adhere to as per the current HOP it prohibits us to have any type of fundraising that will benefit a third party entity. Wanted to thank Javier Zambrano for this information. There is also a plan to join the Events and Fundraising Committees together as they both work for the same goal, how to assist our staff throughout all three campuses.
- Staff Development Committee:
 - Has not met, there is no chair.
- New Business:
 - Employee Services Awards-Mike James announced that HR is finalizing the list for Employee Service Awards to be awarded. This first year all those individuals that met their years of service in increments of five will be recognized.
 - PeopleSoft Update-Mr. James also announced that the projection dates for the implementation of PeopleSoft are as follows: FMS and HCM by Sept 2018 and HDM by 2019.
 - Comment was brought forth on policies-Staff member brought forth that there are discrepancies on the grievance policy as where to start especially if it’s a grievance against and Administrator.
 - Strategic Planning-Lisa Smith announced that institution is moving forward on submitting to UT System, hoping to get it on the docket in May to have it finalized and implemented in August.
 - Question as to why UTSCHA employees were not included in the VSIP-Mike James said that decision was based on different parameters, that more employees are needed in the SOM and a huge need for more staff.
 - Review of Proposed Constitutional Amendments-Mr. Peter Ehimika informed the Senate that no objectives were brought forth from the other meeting. The biggest goal is still on how to split Finance and Administration for

representation to be equal. It was decided that Academic Affairs will get 9 Senators and Administration and Finance with 6 for constituents to be better represented.

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. Selene Castro, Ms. Bianca Otero seconded.
 - Meeting ended at 11:11 a.m.