

Staff Senate General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 25, 2025

Time: 9:03 AM

Location: Teams

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by **Omar Nedzelsky** at 9:03am.

2. Roll Call / Attendance

- Roll call conducted by **Elizabeth Reyes**, Senators responded “aye” verbally or in chat.
- 30 senators present. **Quorum established**

3. Approval of July 2025 Minutes

- **Motion:** Approve minutes: **Carlos Ayala**
- **Second** to approve: **Nicolas Swanson**
- **Vote:** Approved (ayes in chat; no noted opposition)

4. Introduction of new Staff Senate Executive Board:

- **New Elected E Board-** President -**Jake Gonzales**, Vice President- **Elizabeth Reyes**, Secretary- **Ricardo Lopez**, Parliamentarian-**Omar Nedzelsky**, Treasurer- **Matthew Moncus**, Historian- **Krystal Marroquin**, Immediate Past President- **Rolando Segovia**

5. Guest Speakers:

- **Carla Lopez-** Manager of Wellness Programs with the Office of Employee Benefits at UT System Administration
 - Carla introduced the UT Living Well Pro platform and provided live demo.
 - Platform is a one-stop shop for all your benefits, health, well-being needs.
 - Vendors, programs and services that are included in your health plan
 - Main features- participation in a variety of activities that will help you stay committed to your health goals

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- Complete a well-being assessment, Discover tab helps find areas that where you're scoring the lowest
- My Updates feed- announcements about ongoing activities and services going at your own institution
- Connect with your peers – UT System social (similar to Bravo Vaqueros)
- Examples- UT Health Houston share a podcast, MD Anderson share series of videos
- Platform can sync with different devices and apps to track your physical activities
- Questions/support- Institution's Wellness program or Technical Support team at Limeade
- Platform available for employees, staff, and dependents.
- Jen Baker- Employee Experience Specialist with Limeade. Jen introduced the mobile app.
 - Provided a brief overview of app; to include points system for incentives
- QUESTIONS:
 - Is the purpose of the well-being assessment customizing app recommendation? Yes, helps to visualize were to direct your energy.
 - Do the points earned last year roll over? No, they do not.
 - What is the program code or find an employer to log in to the app? Search University of Texas or code is UTX. You may be promoted for a benefit ID to verify eligibility
- **Rolando Segovia-** UTRGV Employee Engagement and Wellness Coordinator
 - Discuss Annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC)
 - Campaign taking place October 1- 31
 - Last year more than 14, 000 state employees contributed
 - With a Total of \$4.3 Million. UTRGV total was \$20, 655.07

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- This year goal for UTRGV is \$30, 000
- The minimum contribution is \$2. 00 – contributes to a book, other contributions allow for meals for families struggling with food insecurity and care packages, meals for senior citizens.
- SECC webpage is on the Human Resources website. A directory of charities is listed. Pledge opens October 1.
- Please confirm codes for charities, which may have changed from last year.
- Charities' websites are available to provide more information on donations to include the administrative costs for the chosen charity.
- Donation form is via DocuSign. Information needed will include your department, employee ID number, 6-digit charity code, amount of donation (or payroll deduction) and/or option for a one-time donation, and acknowledgement of donation.
- For one-time donations will need to be made at the bursar's office. At bursar's office cash and check only accepted.
- If donating to multiple charities, ensure multiple codes are included in columns indicated on form
- Department representatives are available for questions.

6. Committee Reports

- Communications Committee - Dina Lopez (committee chair)
 - Reminder annual Halloween door decorating contest
 - Costume contest coming
 - Homecoming Week of October 20th
 - Stay tuned for updates via e-mail, social media, and website
- Constitution and Elections Committee- Yesenia Carter (committee chair), Matthew Lerma (committee co-chair).

- Updating the Staff Senate Constitution- new divisions which include the Human Resources and Regulatory Affairs
- Elections process begins until later on in the year
- Business Processes- Carlos Ayala (committee chair)
 - No updates
- Staff Success Committee- Milagros Gil (committee chair)
 - No updates

7. Announcements

- First **UTRGV Professional Development Day** on November the 5th, collaboration of course with the human resources (**Krystal Marroquin**)
 - Proposals for sessions due September 30th
 - Proposal forms available
- **Fall into Fitness**- count your steps through Living Well platform from October 1st through October 31st (**Rolando Segovia**)
 - Create a team/s within your department
 - Great opportunity for a little competition against other UT schools.

8. Public Comment / Open Q&A (selected)

- Public recognition- **National Research Administrator Day** today (**Omar Nedzelsky**)
 - Our colleagues whose dedication and hard work help advance our institution's research enterprise. This appreciation extends not only to our partners in the divisions beyond research, but also to the staff at the college level representing. The academics of research as well. So again, thank you to all the researchers, from the students to the faculty and staff for allowing us the opportunity to support and serve you and happy research Administrator Day.

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- **Power in Pink 5K** this October in Brownsville and in Edinburg- Breast Cancer Awareness Month (**Faye UREC**)

9. Adjournment

- Graciela moved to adjourn the meeting. Krystal second the motion.
 - Meeting Adjourned at 9:58 AM by **Omar Nedzelsky**
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