



**Staff Council Meeting  
June 16, 2010**

Present: John Lane, Elliot Ballard, Carmen Allen, Michelle Henninghaus, Karen Alfaro, Debra Shouldice, Sarah Castillo, Ross Heinsohn, Dewayne Loville, Lila Murray, Belinda Hernandez and Bobbie Horack.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:09.
- II. Carmen reported that there have been no changes to the cost centers yet. There is approximately \$1500.00 in the general account. The Staff Awards expenditures have not yet posted to the system. We took in \$475.75 from the Chili Cook-Off; there is approximately \$900 in the two fund-raising accounts.
- III. The April minutes are on the website and were approved.
- IV. Old Business
  - A. The Events Committee co-chair, suggested an early (mid-summer) start for a uniform drive for the House of Tiny Treasures. John mentioned that one of the things that he hoped we would be able to get our name out there, be more active in fund raising and community involvement. In the spring semester we had the Investiture, the Chili Cook-Off and Staff Awards. During the fall semester there was the Cookie Social, the fund raising drive for the House of Tiny Treasures and the Holiday Decorating Contest. He suggested that we could alternated fund raisers; do one for the House of Tiny Treasures, then the next semester have one for our scholarship fund or Staff Awards. The House of Tiny Treasures is a good charity for us to support since we already have a connection with them through the College of Public Services.

It was also suggested that we could support Student Activities in their school supply drive for the DePelchin Home. They will be collecting school supplies from July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. John really wants us to get involved and get our name out there because the summer months is lack-luster in attendance because of people taking vacations, students taking a break from classes, etc. He really wants to have a commitment by Staff Council, that we raise the flag, that we get more than a box of pencils or a pair of socks. Since there was insufficient members at the meeting the question of which charity to support will be put to a vote via e-mail.

The Staff Affairs Committee has not met but they have received an Edge Award application from Minh Lam. He attended in March; we can reimburse his cost center. He went to PeopleAdmin in Austin. John reminded everyone that we need more applications for the Edge Awards; so if you want to go to a training or seminar, please

fill out an application! We really need to push this; it's not being utilized as much as it could be.

The Membership and Elections Committee has not met, but plans to meet soon to start work on the amendment regarding the terms of the Executive Committee. The committee will be working on an amendment to the bylaws regarding the term of service for the Executive Council. The suggestion was to limit the term of service to one year instead of two. Under the current two year term, the current vice president is looking at a possible FIVE years as a member of the Staff Council Executive Council. He/she would serve two years as vice president, two years as president and one year as past president. A question that was brought up was should the amendment(s) to the bylaws be developed by the Membership and Elections Committee in this case, or should a Bylaws Committee be formed?

Another related issue that was brought up was the possibility of paying a stipend, or awarding comp time, to the Executive Council or at least the Staff Council President, for the work that he/she does attending meetings, etc. after hours, weekends. This is something that would have to be proposed to the University's Executive Council and be approved at that level. Michelle pointed out that we could perhaps use the FRT (Fitness Release Time) as a model; meaning that the Staff Council President would fill out a form, get it approved and record it on his/her timesheet just like they would do if they were taking FRT. It was decided that we really don't know enough about what is allowable, or would be a good idea. Carmen and Elliot suggested that we check with Faculty Senate and perhaps other campus(s) to see if they have any type of compensation (time/stipend) for their Executive Council members that give up their personal time to perform staff council business/university business. It was suggested that we talk to Doug TeDuits in ESO about this matter. Karen pointed out that there was something about tying what we do for Staff Council to professional development; which might be helpful in bringing this about. John made a note to talk to Mr. TeDuits regarding the possibilities.

- B. Dr. Woods will be stepping down as Provost; she will continue teaching with the College of Business. There will probably be a party celebrating her tenure in September, maybe one of the first two Fridays. We need more pictures for the book!
- C. STAMATS ran a straw poll regarding the name change choices. The name that received the largest amount of support was Houston City University. The next step is to present the options to the Trustees in August. The actual change is currently slated for implementation during the Fall 2011.

#### V. New Business

- A. The USSEC meeting was re-scheduled; the next meeting has not been scheduled yet. The USSEC president has been having some health issues that have kept her from being able to attend. We discussed USSEC terms, when elections were going to take place, and adding to the constitution a set order for the USSEC officers. Specifically

that the president of USSEC would be from UH one term, then the next term he/she would be from UH-D (or whatever our name is then), then Clear Lake, etc. That way one campus doesn't end up carrying the load year after year. Other topics included domestic partners insurance and child care.

- B. The Childcare Committee is discussing doing a survey of staff, faculty and students. John ran into Tomika Greer, a previous employee of UH-D in Higher Ed, recently and she mentioned that she is working on a dissertation on the related topic of dependent care. She would like to work with us to do a survey here at UH-D.
- C. Fall Family Fun Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to five. They will be expanding this year out on the South Deck, Portico, North Deck, and some areas inside. They are tying in with the Admissions Open House that will be held here earlier that day.

If we run a booth, it will be a five hour commitment. They will be doing zones this year; to accommodate parents that bring small children, the high-school set, and then the older college students. There will be rides for the younger children on the North Deck. The South Deck will be for the older kids and adults. They are estimating attendance of around 500 people. Michelle will be sending an e-mail to the Staff Council for a vote to determine if we will get our own booth, or if we will assist in general at the event.

## VI. Issues/Concerns

- A. Benefits changes are coming up. There are going to be some big changes in the new fiscal year so remind everyone to attend one of the "Get the Scoop" sessions. We will try to get Van Le to attend and speak at next month's meeting if possible.
- B. John pointed out that we needed to do more to promote Staff Council; most staff including people that have been here for years does not know what Staff Council does beyond the Staff Awards event. Bobbie Horack invited Staff Council to attend and speak briefly at the new staff orientations. She agreed that a lot of employees don't know what Staff Council does. The Executive Council could do the first few orientations and then pass the torch to other members.
- C. Eddie Aries came to speak about the changes regarding smoking on campus. Several smoking areas have been moved. New ashtrays are being ordered for the new smoking areas. They want to get people to be more conscientious regarding their smoking habits. Currently smokers have been throwing their cigarette butts down anywhere, and when it rains the butts are washed down the drains and into the bayou. We've had two trashcan fires this year. They are developing a new "referral" process that will hopefully help in curtailing violations by enforcing the rules.

## VII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.