

STAFF COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – Zoom & Nursing Health Science Rm. 160

Attendees: See Attached

Call to Order and Welcome at 2:05 by Billie Abell

Welcome and Introductions of current and new Staff Council members and other attendees

Review/Approve Retreat Minutes from 07/27/2021

Minutes were approved as written

Committee Reports

- Financial Report (Kim Jefferies)
Expenses \$1834.79 pending expenses related to retreat, fall frenzy events and today's meeting. Balance available \$13,732.95.
Approved as submitted

- Events & Fundraising (Billie)
 - Recap: Staff Recognition & Service Awards [Spring]
Great turn-out for the walk-through style event with social distancing
 - Upcoming [Fall] Holiday Market
 - November 19th @ Morris Rec Center 10am-6pm
 - The plan is to return to normal/full capacity.
 - Around 50 vendors are expected to participate.
 - More details coming soon.
 - Check out our Holiday Market Facebook Page @ TAMUCHolidayMarket
 - University Calendar – interested to help boost us up to “Featured”

 - LEO Event Series: Is being added to this sub-committee; committee meeting soon and begin planning; those interested in serving on the committee as an outside representative should contact Billie. Will be posted.
 - Athletic Event Socials - hope to attend, volleyball, soccer, tailgate events

- Staff Recognition/Appreciation (Billie)
 - Most Valuable Lion
 - We are accepting nominations for quarter 3 now, if you know of anyone deserving of recognition please nominate them.
 - o Quarter 2 recipient was Jennifer Hudson from Honors College
 - Anniversary Card update - August cards gone out

- Scholarship – Selected 4 recipients (at random) from our pool of applicants, paperwork has been submitted to the scholarship office for processing. ○ Recipients are > Trenton McGee > Christopher Hensley > Ray Dittrich > Courtney Clanton
- Service Awards – No new updates. Employee data will be pulled on September 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 year.
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- Communication (Billie)
No new updates
- Enrichment and Outreach (Amanda Brown)
 - Will be doing events each Wednesday August. Next week will have popcorn delivered at 4 pm. Then last week do Blue/Gold button handouts for staff wearing Blue/Gold
 - Working on taking better care of Mentorship page
 - Coffee With Council are all scheduled and will be on community calendar
 - Also events for professional development, cover letters, interviews, etc.

New Business:

- Jodi White agreed to help with website updates for Staff Council. Hope to update to new platform soon.
- Jennifer Smith leaving and replacing her will be Harry Patrick for UPD and he will finish out Jennifer's term on Staff Council
- Staff Council's COVID Task Force Representative will be James Vanbebber
- Amendments to By-Laws as discussed at our retreat : Need half of the members present to make these Motions
- Amanda Brown - I move to amend By-Law Article III Section IV C) to read: "No member may serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms, but may be re-elected after one (1) year absence from the Staff Council." The motion was seconded by Kristi Taylor – motion carried
- Amanda Brown - I move to suspend By-Law Article IV Section II until the September regular meeting, the motion was seconded by Kim Jefferies – motion carried.

COVID/Campus updates – Derek Preas/James Vanbebber

James discussed COVID/Campus updates – draft of fall return has been drafted but has not been approved by Dr. Rudin or System Office of General Counsel. Includes testing faculty, staff, contract workers, not sure if will be random rapid tests, but OGC will respond will have by time students move back Aug 26th. We can require testing even if can't mandate masks or getting vaccine. Still looking at policy for visitors, sporting events, etc.

Q&A – Information will come out in general email and on COVID webpage and links for scheduling testing at Student health services, cost – free for everyone.

Pfizer vaccine up first for FDA full approval

Some school ISDs have asked for mask mandates in TX

Human Resources will have information on quarantine for those vaccinated but test positive, work from home, etc.

Derek Preas – Updates

- Delta variant discussed – updates will come out in a couple of days after all reviews. Following current CDC guidelines According to CDC No symptoms not required to quarantine.
- Discussed testing positive, quarantine, isolation, exposure, symptomatic/asymptomatic
- We consider CDC, government, A&M-System, local health authorities and health agencies, and Senior Leadership
- COVID counts will likely be posted
- Not likely to go back to all online for classes
- Hospitals have surge response protocols
- There is a procedure to report our numbers internally positive, isolation, quarantine, to local authorities, then they post to state
- Dallas Campus is going on with construction and on track right now
- Construction in front of lake (will still have ducks), will have hang out area, seating, lighting – under water, hope to complete by end of November
- Eastside campus improvement group – venues, upgrades, furniture, exterior, landscaping, etc. 5-yr plan. Ferguson will be first. Committee includes faculty, staff, and campus partners. Working with group to do a duck feeding program (instead of people feeding regular food)
- Working with SSC to improve landscaping particularly weed removal
- There is a pool of water not draining outside of NHS
- Accessible furniture for students – talk to department dean of the area or building.
- Welcome Center plan – still with senior leadership has gone to the Board for a 2nd review.
- When will Dallas campus be open – will have to get an update; signage going up is in the design but would be before the first class day.
- Whitley 1st floor renovations going on right now, Children’s Learning center getting upgrades,
- VET-Tech new program and doing upgrades in lab, classrooms
- James Van – Zoom mtg. Monday August 23rd 11-12 compliance about guns on campus will be on community calendar.
- Starbucks in Velma K. Waters Library putting in tile, 1st floor bathrooms are being upgraded. ASC has a location 10th anniversary grand opening will be Sept 8th 201C

COB 218 conference room very high tech, working on completing the finance lab, will be a student lounge added, white board, lounge seating, will eventually have 2 large windows see into the room

Purchasing – Jessica currently located on 3rd floor in COB location being renovated

Event Landscaping with coloring – was liked and want to repeat, Billie LEO series we weill visit the farm; had about 150 people who came and got snow cones last BG event

Billie – filling in as interim president since Brian McGinley’s departure. Elections will be held in September.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hattie Powell".

Hattie Powell, Recorder