



Staff Council Meeting January 20, 2010

Present: John Lane, Elliot Ballard, Carmen Allen, Michelle Henninghaus, Teresa Sterling, Lila Murray, Minh Lam, Nicholas Martinez, Liza Alonzo, Belinda Hernandez, Ross Heinsohn, Ann Tolsma, Renya Romero, Becky Van Meter, Brenetta Brooks, Paulette Purdy, Kevin Dorsey

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:10.
- II. The minutes from the December 21st meeting were approved pending the addition of the Edge Award winners.
- III. Carmen gave the Financial Report; that does not include the money spent on the cookie social, approximately \$200. There is \$1,383.75 in the Main Cost Center. There is \$5,197.00 in the Edge Awards Cost Center, the Edge Awards for December have not yet posted. Once they (three awards totaling \$500) post there will be \$4697.00 in the Edge Awards Cost Center. Then there are two cost centers mostly used for fund-raising. There is \$209.35 in the Staff Council Cost Center and \$622.36 in the Staff Council Special Events Cost Center.

IV. Old Business

- A. Elliot asked that he be invited to attend at least one meeting for each committee. The beginning of semester has delayed most committee meetings this month. Several committees have either physical, or e-mail meetings scheduled for the next two weeks.

Brenetta asked about the archive area for the Staff Council Membership Roster. John explained that the idea behind that is to have the history available. The archive would also include programs from previous Staff Awards events and other items of interest.

- B. An e-mail regarding the sign-up for the new Childcare/Dependent Care Ad Hoc Committee will be sent out shortly. John has contacted the president regarding the next steps. USSEC met last week to discuss this issue. UH already has a daycare and they are more than willing to share advice, documentation, surveys, groundwork to help us get started. We want to get support from staff, faculty and students for the committee; this is going to be a long process. It won't happen over-night, but it won't happen at all unless we get started and get support from all the groups.

Carmen pointed out that the first step is going to be to do research; because there are several different models. One of the things mentioned at the USSEC meeting was that if you have only a limited amount of space then start small and gradually phase in more

programs/classes. It should be emphasized that people, be they staff, faculty or students, want this program. We need to demonstrate that, we need to get the numbers to support. Yes, UH is willing to share what they have, but we will need to get the numbers, pull it all together, and write it up. As John said; "Data supersedes opinion." The members of this committee do not have to be Staff Council members. Please share, and recruit from your co-workers.

- C. The Staff Council Executive Committee presented Paulette Purdy with a king-sized check for the House of Tiny Treasures. Staff Council raised \$1,870.00 to purchase sleeping bags and other essentials for the children. They were able to provide sleeping for forty-six children through our donations plus other donations they received this year. They were also able to purchase small gifts such as lotion for the children to give their moms or other caregivers. She mentioned that they had twenty-six moms and only four dads. The photo of the check presentation will be in the Skyline and on the website.
- D. Minh Lam has volunteered to help John with website updates. They will be working on getting the agendas and minutes posted to our website.

V. New Business

- A. The investiture will begin on Saturday March 6th with the Fulbright Festival. Most of the events were already scheduled and are being pulled into the investiture. The investiture is a ceremony designed for the community to "invest" into the President and the university.
 - 1. The Investiture Committee has approached John and asked if Staff Council be willing to co-host a breakfast highlighting staff. There is a discussion about handing out pins that tell how many years a person has been with the university. The breakfast is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday March 9th from 9:00-10:00. We will be soliciting donations from various vendors such as Jason's Deli and the Kolache Factory. We should check with Yvonne Montalbano in ESO to ensure that the vendors we approach have not already been approached for the investiture. This will also be an opportunity for staff to find out what all will be taking place that week during the investiture. The budget that Staff Council has agreed upon is \$400.00.
 - 2. Staff Council will be hosting a Chili Cook-Off March 12th in the evening. The chili cook-off will be a fund-raiser benefiting the Staff Council. Each team will pay a registration fee, when the public enters the event they will purchase a bowl that they can take around to the various booths in order to sample the chili. The teams will be limited to five people and they will be expected to produce a set amount of chili. This is to ensure that everyone will be able to be open and have chili to serve for the entire event.

We are currently working out the logistics regarding the Food Permit, safety issues and the rules for the event. One possibility is that area will be fenced in and teams will not be allowed to enter unless they have all required equipment. All food must

still be in the original store wrapping/containers. Perishables must be on ice. A lot of the details are still being worked out. Brenetta suggested that we could talk to Elaine Pearson for advice regarding the chili cook-off.

In addition to the prize for best chili, teams will also be encouraged to enter in “Go Texan” outfits, and the best decorated booths. Other events for the evening include a boat ride up and down the bayou and a light show that will be projected on the side of the building. There has been a commitment granting release time with pay for the people participating in the event.

Staff Council is considering the purchase of our own personal pop-up tent for the chili cook-off and future events.

- B. Staff Awards will be May 7th. Michelle will be sending out an e-mail asking for volunteers, with descriptions of the various sub-committees.

VI. Issues/Concerns

- A. John asked that the committees please try to have regular meetings. He emphasized that meetings did not have to be face-to-face. He also asked that anyone that has been having problems with getting away to attend meetings to please let him know and he will address it to try and work something out. He wants us to do good stuff for our university and the staff and to get our name out there.
- B. Brenetta asked if John could find out for certain what was going on regarding possible raises. There are a number of rumors going around, and she was wondering what the official word was. There have also been news of the university having to return a certain percentage of money; but that there are plans to off-set those funds, such as winter session, more Saturday classes, more online classes.
- C. John had received an e-mail from Sue Davis regarding Stamats and the name change survey. He is going to ask for more information regarding what is happening with the process that can be shared with Staff Council and staff in general.
- D. Liza Alonzo will be forming an ad hoc committee to look into ordering tee-shirts for Staff Council. They will be looking into the cost involved.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19.