

Staff Council General Meeting Minutes
Sam Houston State University
May 12, 2021

I. Call To Order

Justin Ball called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes – Kristin Ware

The April meeting minutes were emailed to members on April 28th. No corrections to the minutes were received. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Natalie Payne and seconded by Natali Maness. All members were in favor and none opposed. Minutes were approved.

III. Treasurers Report – Rachel Bubela

Rachel submitted the following balances:

- PDC: \$1220.18
- Friends of Staff Council: \$4,706.73
- E-board: \$830.00
- Staff Development: \$370.00
- Nomination and Elections: \$50.00
- Special Events: \$2,574.27
- News and Networking: \$5.48
- Staff Affairs: \$0.00

We are currently receiving \$40.00 per month in payroll deduction donations for Friends of Staff Council.

IV. Chairs Report – Justin Ball

Justin reported that Dr. Drew Miller reached out to him to discuss the possibility of presenting to Staff Council and/or setting up a booth at our Spring Fling Event. He expressed concern about the results of the recent COVID-19 survey which showed that the majority of those less likely to receive the vaccine were staff members due to lack of information. Justin asked everyone to submit their thoughts, concerns to him via email. Several members expressed varying opinions about Dr. Miller's request to present information about the COVID-19 vaccine and/or set up a booth at our Spring Fling event. Justin tabled the discussion in favor of scheduling a special session to talk further.

V. Committee Reports

News and Networking: Jerrell Sherman

Jerrell reported that the May winner for Spotlight on Staff is Kathy Chisum from the Academic Success Center – First Year Experience (details pending).

Nominations and Elections: Natalie Payne

Natalie reported that we received 61 nominations. Her committee is following up with those nominated to verify acceptance and gather biosketches for the ballot which will go out at the end of May/early June.

Special Events: Maggie Odom & Shelly Nettuno

Shelly reported that our Spring Fling Event is on schedule for Wednesday, May 19th at 11:00-1:00 in the LSC Mall area. Donations to the Food Pantry are encouraged. Volunteers are signed up and delivery to off-site locations has been arranged.

Staff Development: Haley Rothrock & Nikki Stifflemire

Nikki reported that the final Hot Topics for this year is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25th at 2:30-3:30. The topic is Cybersecurity and will be held via Zoom.

Staff Affairs: Tiffany Driver

Tiffany reported that unfortunately, we cannot use the staff promo code on GrubHub. Kristy Vienne is aware of the issue but there is no fix at the moment. Tiffany also discussed the leave policy. Changes have been suggested by the faculty to alter their leave policy in the event they cannot physically teach on campus to include reasonable alternatives such as teaching online courses, course development, research, etc. The staff leave policy cannot be updated in such a way. We discussed the possibility of extending the option to telecommute. However, several jobs including custodial, ground maintenance and protective services cannot be done remotely. Justin mentioned a policy in place at Austin P which allows for personnel to be compensated in the event someone is not able to work in person and another person needs to take on additional responsibilities. The discussion was tabled in favor of scheduling a special session to further discuss a staff leave policy.

VI. Old Business: Updates, Discussion, or Action

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business: Updates, Discussion, or Action

Rachel reported that plans for the Annual Retreat are beginning to take shape. The retreat is currently scheduled for Wednesday, July 14th at 10:00-2:00 and will take the place of our July general meeting. Location is TBD at this time, but an invitation will be sent out once final arrangements are confirmed. Natalie followed up to offer some background about the intent and goal of the Annual Retreat for new members.

Justin requested nominations for open E-board positions. Benji Cantu nominated Maggie Odom for Secretary and Natalie Payne nominated Tiffany Driver for Chair-Elect.

Natali asked about the name change of the LSC Mall Area to The Yard. Several people have expressed concern, even offense. Justin will look into it.

Natali also brought up the idea of opting out of advertising mailers. Many do not wish to receive them. In addition, there is concern that several off-campus departments must actually pay for them to be delivered.

Benji reported that Visitor Services will now be offering regular tours of campus to faculty and staff. An email will be sent shortly with more information.

Justin reported that we will be moving forward with the cookoff for Staff Appreciation Day. More details will be forthcoming.

Natalie reminded members that the email transfer to the Cloud is coming. They started with students and faculty/staff will be next, by division:

May 24, 2021 – Academic Affairs

June 1, 2021 – President's Office, Texas State University System (TSUS), University Advancement, Athletics

June 3, 2021 – Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

June 7, 2021 – Finance and Operations

Divisional Reports:

None.

VIII. Upcoming Events

Next General Staff Council Meeting – June 9th, 1:30pm

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Ware on 6/1/2021