

**Staff Council General Meeting – Via Zoom
August 26, 2020, 2:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

- ✓ Billie Abell
- ✓ Amanda Brown
- ✓ Sarah Elder
- ✓ Valerie Fulkerson
- ✓ Mona Gilley
- ✓ Kim Jefferies
- ✓ Amy Robinson
- ✓ Charles Robnett
- ✓ Katie Thomas
- ✓ Leslie Horn
- ✓ Jennifer Smith
- ✓ Kristi Taylor
- ✓ Jonathan Johnston
- ✓ James Vanbebber
- ✓ Audrey Voss
- ✓ Student Disability Services
- ✓ Donna Russell
- ✓ Virginia Monk
- ✓ Chris Gage
- ✓ Leah Kanaman
- ✓ Misty Glidewell
- ✓ Glenda Denton
- ✓ Kaylee, K TAMUC
- ✓ Amy Patrick
- ✓ Carmen Frazier
- ✓ Suzanne Giossi
- ✓ Cammi Derr
- ✓ Jolissa Yonker
- ✓ Angela Owens
- ✓ Amy Bassham
- ✓ Brenda Morris
- ✓ Dr. Fred Fuentes
- ✓ Erica Savala
- ✓ Jess Gamez
- ✓ Tammi
- ✓ Tracy Steward
- ✓ Cathy Hynsworth
- ✓ Amber Countis
- ✓ Danielle Trevino
- ✓ Melissa Robinson
- ✓ Michael Stark
- ✓ Tanya Pearson
- ✓ Julie Rose

- ✓ Janet Anderson
- ✓ Spacey Kacey

The meeting was called to Order 2:04 p.m. by Mona Gilley

- **Introductions**

Welcome new 2020-2021 SC members

- **Finance Report - no changes**

- **Sub-committee Report Chair Introductions & New Committee Announcements**

If want to serve on any committees reach out to sub-committee chairs; don't have to be a member of Staff Council

Staff Recognition/Appreciation – Sarah Elder

- EOM – will look at changes and possible name change
- Staff Recognition - Will do 2 years at same time for staff recognition due to COVID-19

Events & Fundraising – Billie Abel

- Holiday Market Friday Nov. 20th 10 am to 6 pm at Morrison Rec Center – 19 vendor spaces and all have been reserved
- Shoppers must wear masks
- 6 ft. apart for social distancing
- Sanitation & Safety

Communications – Sarah Elder

- Continuing communications on Facebook, promoting student events

Enrichment & Outreach - Amanda Brown

- Mentorship starting
- September – mentorship
- A&M-Commerce game night
- Blood drive in Nov. w Holiday Market

- **Unfinished Business**

- Scholarship – Sarah Elder
 - Discussed process
 - Fall recipients chosen Graduate Recipient - Jolissa Yonker
 - Undergraduate Recipient – Beverly McMurray
- Next scholarship window opens in December or Early January

- **New Business – none**

- **Questions and Concerns from Staff**

Mona – no questions for Staff Council were submitted before the meeting

Mona opened the floor for questions -

April Carl – Is there a schedule of events or activities online? Just for the staff council

Sarah – we post to university calendar and on our SC webpage and faculty/staff announcements

Mona – online calendar a good idea

April - Are there job descriptions for volunteer positions? No – if interested in a committee contact chair

Dr. Fred Fuentes – thanked Mona for serving as President and has done a great job

What exciting ideas do we have coming? Mona – Amanda’s announcement about starting mentorship to help new employees learn about the campus; revamp EOM,

Katie – getting staff together outside of the typical work environment exciting and something she pushed for when joining SC

Virginia Monk – Corsicana – getting anniversary cards helps remote staff feel connected and they appreciate that

Mona – SC has focused on things to help with staff morale:

- Blue & Gold Wednesday handed out and delivered candy
- Worked with faculty to build relationship with Faculty Senate and co-sponsored events
- Attended student events

Mona asked for other suggestions from those in attendance:

- April – loved staff civility events; could still do meet and great online w/fun activities; share the kindness challenge with faculty, staff and students
- Amanda be intentional about recruiting efforts
- Jazz – reported Blue & Gold Wednesday was talked about for first time at faculty orientation
- Dr. Fuentes – recruit more Black and Latino members to promote serving on SC – maybe work with TABPHE on ideas to boost morale boosters - invite TABPHE to SC meeting on how we can help with those issues
- Jonathan – appreciated trivia night
- Mona – we can revisit kindness challenge to help with morale

Mona – does anyone have concerns about students being back on campus?

Mona – reported how SC members are nominated – information received from HR on specific number from each EEO position category; it’s staggered and email only goes to

those in the EEO positions; normally have nominations at the end of July. Anyone interested in running can send their name and staff vote on new members

Billie – any staff member may join the sub-committees, don't have to be on SC; can use the extra help; important to volunteer and meet people on campus

Donna Russell – recommended including a photograph along with the name of the nominees when voting for SC.

Jonathan – where is information listed about term lengths and timeframes of EEO positions? Mona, we don't have that right now. Good idea to post – can only serve 2 back-to-back 2 yr. terms, then must sit out at least 1 yr.

Jazz – recommended staff put professional photos in Workday

Hattie – everyone should fill out their profile in Workday; if not on internal postings, you will not get specific questions like skills; could disqualify a staff person as a candidate for a position

Amanda – working with networking with Bethany Farrell from Career Development, LEO events have been popular asked staff to submit ideas for events

Mentorship program – webpage that operates like a forum, can post questions, say you are an expert in a program, share files, post events, rather than send emails

Billie – encourage staff to share with others about events

Amy Patrick – Dr. Rudin has other meetings and start of semester so busy most staff don't have time to log on; they are getting a lot of positive feedback on their monthly newsletter in HR

Mona – SC will discuss having general open meeting in a different month, other than August because of business of the first week of classes

Mona – we have talked about doing a newsletter to share information about SC

President's Remarks and Open Forum

Dr. Rudin asked for questions from those in attendance – expressed communication and transparency will be the order of the day.

- Update on COVID-19 as of 9 am this morning – 25 positive cases on campus, 24 students housed in a particular area and quarantined;
- We have done a good job of containing – utilizing testing and contact tracing

Michael Stark – how is online instruction going this semester?

Dr. Rudin – going well so far – Executive Team meets every day

- Want to avoid switching to completely online, students want to be on campus

- Will do course-by-course consideration, with faculty having option on how to adjust courses.
- Approx. 60% of classes are online;
- feel good about following CDC guidelines; we will deal with things day-to-day this fall and adapt/compromise

Mona – complimented Dr. Rudin being open to speaking with staff, students, etc. Dr. Rudin welcomes getting to know and meeting people

Mona – asked if we are going to do another 360 evaluation

Dr. Rudin, asked if we want to do it again? Now may not be the right time with pandemic, we didn't do student evaluations. May consider one in spring 2021 or fall 2021; Open to doing if SC want to discuss and present a plan. Dr. Rudin reported there were discussions with faculty about things that came out in the 360.

Mona – Morale – Dr. Rudin – Dale Carnegie Civility training done, has seen improvement in civility. Want to keep Civility in the forefront.

Julie Russell – Carnegie group still has 1500 wristbands for civility to hand out to F/S and students.

Mona – civility will stay a priority to SC

Do we have plans to continue discussion with new employee forums? Dr. Rudin still likes the idea discussing/meeting new employees and current staff;

Dr. Rudin asked Mona to help with doing a cohort with employees that have been here. Mona will get with Jazz to work on ideas

Billie – suggested SC reach out to new employees and welcome them? Take them for coffee/donuts or just stop by and greet them and say hi – good idea

Mona – Dr. Rudin has always been supportive of SC and things we want to do.

Danielle – would love for HR and SC to work together; Mona - we can invite HR to a meeting to discuss.

Adjourn

Mona – it has been a pleasure serving as the President of Staff Council for the last 2. Look forward to it growing.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Hattie Powell, Staff Council Recorder