Date and Location: April 30, 2015, Thompson Student Center, Room 130, 10-11 a.m.


Substitutes: Ashley Ayers for Elaine Chew, Simon Smith for Elizabeth Johnson, Morgan Carter for Betty Pack

Staff Council was called to order at 10:04 a.m. with roll subsequently taken. We had an estimated 13 visitors attending in person and online. The new Staff Council shirts and name tags were disbursed.

Treasurer Report: Staff Council Treasurer Frances Blair reported the following balances:

- Operating Expense Account balance: $6,061.65 as of 3/31/2015
- General Fund Account balance: $16,063.62 as of 3/31/2015
- Scholarship Fund Account balance: $6,278.36 as of 3/31/2015

Committee Reports:

- Public Relations: Lacie Harris said she plans on getting those interested in the Publicity Committee together to discuss the needs/direction of publicity for Staff Council. She also said they will be sending out periodic emails beginning in May for the Staff Development and Wellness Day. The event is scheduled for May 22nd, 2015.
- Wellness: Ben Kunze said the Fitbit program has been a hit with staff members.
- Staff Development: Ashley Ayers (stepping in for Elaine Chew) shared an update on the Staff Development and Wellness Day event. The speakers are scheduled, lunch will be provided by Hambone’s, and they’re still seeking donations for the door prizes from local businesses. Any assistance gathering donations would be appreciated. She also
provided a rundown of the speakers’ topics. It was later mentioned that we need to ensure there is a vegetarian alternative to the steak lunch being offered.

- **Staff Appreciation**: Ben announced that the Staff Appreciation gift of sunshades for vehicles was the most popular choice and they have been ordered.
- **Hospitality**: Ben announced that Micah Russell will be the new chair for this committee. Caleb Chapman will be overseeing the Staff Appreciation committee.

**Old Business:**

- **CLEP exams**: Ben explained that they are still working on the reimbursement plan for CLEP exams; these reimbursements would be taxable. He said they hope to have it in place for the next fall semester.

**New Business:**

- **Staff vs. Faculty 50/50 Positions**: Ben asked Morgan Hammond to talk about the conundrum for recognizing the efforts of Tarleton employees who are partially faculty and partially staff (in various ratios). Morgan explained that while staff appreciation awards are eligible for staff and faculty have faculty awards, for those who are a blend of faculty and staff, they’re not eligible for recognition from either side. She said, “They don’t have a place to be recognized. We would like to recognize them for their staff efforts.” This year, the Employee Recognition committee had two names put forth for awards who were deemed ineligible because of their split-effort status. Ben said this is something that Staff Council will look into.

**Other Business**: Ben opened the floor to input, questions, and comments from the members and visitors. Topics of discussion included:

- **Safety concerns** about carts (both those with packages and with passengers) on the sidewalks where pedestrians are as well as the lack of courtesy from those wielding weed-eaters and edgers not stopping when people walk by. One attendee said she was actually struck by flying debris from a weed-eater.
- **Parking** prices, options, and over-selling of lots. Ben said it would be a good idea to get someone in to give an update about the parking situation at a future meeting.
- **Moving the bollards** on Lillian to allow for better vehicular use of the road to get into the parking lots.
- **Additional signage at graduation** was suggested to help with visitors locating seating and restrooms.

**Door Prize Drawing** was awarded to Sonya Weathermon! Congratulations, Sonya!