

## Staff Council Minutes

April 20 2011

Meeting was called to order by John Lane, Staff Council President at 2:15pm. Council members present included: John Lane, Elliot Ballard, Michelle Henninghaus, Lila Murray, Debra Shoulders, Karen Alfaro, Liza Alonzo and Lois Green.

There was a brief discussion regarding March's minutes. L. Murray suggested that we include "staff concerns" on each agenda. B. Brooks need to review last statement on March's minutes for revision or corrections.

Suggestion was made to include refreshments (pizza) for the August meeting welcoming the FY12 Staff Council and celebrating the successes of the FY10-Fy11 Council.

Financial Report was presented by L. Murray as follows: Discretionary funds-\$1458.06; Gift/Edge-\$4487.00; Staff Council Fundraiser- \$209.35; and Special Events- \$1984.37.

There has only been one EDGE Award winner this fiscal year. So far we have \$1593.75 for this year's cook-off and \$583.00 from last year's cook-off for a total of \$2176.75. We have paid for police/security, leaving a net of \$1951.75. There are still outstanding invoices that need to be processed.

J. Lane stated that the Chili Cook-Off proceeds will be used for scholarships, preferably book scholarships for staff enrolled in degree granting institutions. John will obtain a vote by Staff Council. Scholarship awards committee will develop criteria with the hope of implementing the scholarship for fall 2011.

The Chili Cook Off was very successful. Per J. Lane, President Flores was impressed. There was a lengthy discussion about UHD hosting the next Chili Cook-Off instead of Staff Council. Dr. Flores would like to see more faculty and students participate. Many council members at today's meeting would like the event to remain a Staff Council hosted event.

J. Lane suggested having a BBQ cook-off event in July. That's up for further discussion.

### Staff Awards Program

E. Ballard met with B. Powell to review the service award list and resolve discrepancies. Email will be sent to recipients also to verify their years of service.

L. Alonzo is checking with vendors to get the best price for awards. We don't want to sacrifice quality.

Further discussion about the awards program included food, communication, programs and presenters.

Nomination forms will be sent electronically to all staff. All nominations will be sent to D. TeDuits. The Awards Review Committee should review nominations around May 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>.

In the May meeting we will discuss election of new members and the Elections Committee.

L. Murray suggested that UHD needs to have an employee who is trained in getting people out of the elevators if one should stop. Recently an employee stuck in the elevator had to wait until an off-campus contractor come to campus and get her out of the elevator.

USSEC (University System Staff Executive Council)

J. Lane and E. Ballard attended the April 13 meeting at UH-Sugarland. E. Ballard gave the following summary of the USSEC meeting:

Revisions to the USSEC Constitution were made and approved, are now going through the ratifying signature (each component's staff council president signs document) process.

The focus of USSEC for FY11 (staff morale, budgetary efficiencies, employee engagement/empowerment) has changed to *Employer of Choice*, to promote positive ideas and actions of each component university. This can be done by posting information and photos of the various events that happen at each component.

Speaking of posting, the USSEC website was taken down until someone (one of the components) can work to update the information and make it available to the public again.

HB3168, which is to eliminate longevity pay, was discussed and the suggestion was made to tell constituents to contact their state reps to stop this bill.

Lastly, UHCL shared that a state bill is in the works to open enrollment downward to freshman and sophomore classes. It was also mentioned that UHCL is in search of a mascot.

The next USSEC meeting is set for July 13 from 1-3pm at UH-Sugarland.