

# Minutes from the May 1, 2008 General Meeting

Welcome!

- Naarah McDonald introduced the board members and all staff in attendance introduced themselves to all new staff. Biggest turn out to the general meetings in quite some time – 33 in all. (see attendance list below)

Introduction to new staff members @ UWT:

- Lorna Fernandez introduced all new staff members:
  - *Joe Sabo, Sr Contract Manager, Finance*
  - *Nancy Geier, Admin Coordinator, Chancellor's Office*
  - *Tomieka Garrett, Adviser, Gen Ed*
  - *Robert Guerrero, Interim Coordinator, Diversity Resource Center*
  - *Megan Bentley, OA 3, Gen Ed*
  - *Angela Zurcher, Manager, Convenience Store*
  - *Kristin Wolle, OA 2, Continuing Studies*
  - *Curtis Black, Adviser, Admissions Advising/Outreach*

Unsung Hero Announcement:

- Carole Svensson introduced our 1st winner of the ‘Unsung Hero Award’ – Dana Clark. The board presented Dana with balloons, a certificate and a gift card the day before the general meeting. Carole also discussed this award and explained the details about our voting and picking of winners and how often this will be awarded and when.

Distinguished Staff Awards:

- Laurie McKay announced this years winners’ of the DSA: Lia Wetzstein & Naarah McDonald. Both will be recognized at the annual Spring Celebration that will be held May 21, 2008.

Professional Development Events:

- Lorna Fernandez talked about the upcoming events such as: The Classified Staff Retreat, (should be held sometime in June); Transition and Change workshop; and the Fiscal Staff Meeting on May 2, 2008. Also ‘Game Day’ which usually happen in July of each summer. Lorna encouraged staff to attend.

## Campus Budget update:

- Kim Davenport, who is our staff representative on the Budget committee talked about two separate issues regarding the budget process. It was brought to the campus that a change in this biennium's budget will take place at the end of this fiscal year as opposed to the end of the biennium (This June 30th instead of next) and that would be to take back at least 50% of unspent funds currently in each programs budget. The committee is done with their suggestions to the Chancellor and will be presented to her this week or next. These new changes were not discussed w/the Budget Committee members – they heard via word of mouth. Many concerns were voiced to Ysabel Trinidad about urgent needs the programs may run up against and no funds to support them. People felt that this policy hasn't been looked at from all directions. They feel no one had a chance to make suggestions or hear anything about it. It's felt that the committee that was formed is very top heavy with just one staff member on board. Julie Buffington asked if anyone knew what kind of questions we need to ask such as: Deadlines? The process? What happened?

Kim mentioned that there is a 'memo' forthcoming to explain the process and how it will work. There was a suggestion to put together a committee of staff to advocate these issues. The staff was asked for volunteers and to send the reason they would like to volunteer to Naarah. Tracy Norris wanted to know if this was part of the 'Strategic Planning' (growth) because there is lots of movement amongst program and a need to upgrade.

## Spring Celebration Update (Scheduled for May 21st – Longshoremen's Hall):

- Michelle reminded everyone to please RSVP, that the event will be from 12:45pm to 2:00pm and that things like the DSA winners will be announced.

## Tuition Exemption and discussion about staff taking classes @ UWT.

- It was stressed to Dr. Rushing staffs concerns about our availability of taking classes and not being able to register for classes we need to enhance our careers. The staff was interested in knowing the policy on holding/reserving space for staff or if there were other options available? Dr. Rushing has discussed our concerns with Directors and asked them to discuss this with faculty about overloading but, it was noted that the ultimate decision comes from them (faculty). Dr. Rushing understands this is an issue and suggests going to your adviser, administrator, and the faculty but offered no guarantee. Julie Buffington heard that programs have a different policy on add codes and has asked for clarification on how these are handled. It was brought up that faculty feel they are being put on the spot but we (as staff) want them to know and be aware of what happens when we (staff) are not able to take a class. Joe C. found that some faculty are helpful but, felt there is inconsistency on campus with the programs and non-academic programs when it comes to release time. Lia W. believes that there is a lot of outside of the box options and that those higher up can and should encourage and press the issues. Loretta L. says she notices less evening classes being offered which hinders the staff's ability to take classes outside of work hours. Beth Rushing agreed that this will have to change. Linda G. suggests a consistent policy that needs to be around campus. Naarah says a

policy could limit those that are generous. That the policy is based on the discretion of the department heads. Not sure a policy can be done? Joe mentioned that jobs offered on campus are 'degrees required' but the staff are unable to take classes to get degrees which hinders their ability to move ahead @ UWT. Several staff commented that beyond release time, all faculty should be encouraged to accept 'us' as an overload. Beth R. understands and wants it to be encouraged and said things are being addressed. She encouraged staff to email the board w/concerns to share with her and she will go to the chancellor. Renee Smith Nyberg will also be addressing the culture of release time on campus and will speak about it at our next general meeting. Naarah has agreed to send out email updates when available.

Monthly meetings with Chancellor Spakes and the member of the SA Board – 1st meeting to be held on May 30th, 2008. (Jennifer Burley)

- Naarah announced to staff that the board will be meeting with the Chancellor on a regular basis and to email any concerns to her that we can discuss with Chancellor Spakes.

**END OF MEETING**