

TEXAS  STATE[®]
STAFF COUNCIL

AGENDA

March 8, 2022

10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

[ZOOM Meeting](#)

Staff Council Meetings are available via
[Zoom](#) Passcode: Council

The mission of the Texas State University Staff Council shall be to promote and enhance the status of university staff, ensure the effective contribution of staff expertise toward university goals, and act as the liaison between the university president and staff.

*The Council shall represent the collective body of the staff
and shall report directly to the university president.*

Note: Minutes for previous Staff Council meetings are available [on the Staff Council Website](#).

ACTION
(10:00)

Call to Order

Brandi Martinez, Chair

Staff Council members in attendance: Jen Aguirre, Katie Alonzo, Carlos Baca, Cynthia Balboa, Dr. Harlan Ballard, Jayme Blaschke, Zachary Collins, Nabila Cook, Veronica Fernandez, Anita Ford, Noel Fuller, Victoria Gonzales, Heather Kristoff, Megan Krou, Brandi Martinez, Mayra Mejia, Anthony Padilla, Jennifer Small, Daniel Vasquez, Bailey Verschoyle, Ana Webb, Illona Weber, Rachel Weldon-Caron, Martin Zavala

GUEST

Office of University Marketing

(10:05)

Elias Martinez, Assistant Vice President for University Marketing

Elias shared details about the Texas State Next Campaign.

The campaign was a result of a task force that looked at creating a new brand platform, which included campus surveys and consultation with a national marketing firm. The pandemic delayed the start of the campaign, but Texas State was able to start the new brand campaign at the same time as the new fundraising campaign.

Highlights included:

- Campaign focuses on Texas State being distinct from other institutions, which includes a focus on research, a student body that mirrors the demographics of Texas, being a Hispanic serving institution, and we educating more first-generation students
- Campaign is being used at Commencement, during New Student Orientation / admissions, in advertising, on social media, and banners on campus
- Empowering staff to create their own brand materials (posters, flyers, etc.), with guidelines available here:
<https://brand.txstate.edu/>

Since University Marketing is focusing on the University brand, they will refer requests for individual documents to self-service platforms and can consider taking other projects on a case-by-case basis (as long as the project can be turned into a campaign).

For communication professionals on campus looking for access to brand materials via LucidPress, they can reach out to Elias Martinez.

UPDATE
(10:30)

Item 1: Treasurer's Update (handout)

Carlos Baca, Treasurer

See Treasurer's Update handout for details.

Brandi added that they are working to hopefully take credit card payments in the future for the Parking Permit Raffle.

UPDATE
(10:40)

Item 2: External Committee Updates

- a) Campus Recreation Advisory Council
Noel Fuller shared an update – seems that Campus Recreation is facing many of the same issues that other fee-based services are facing after COVID (recovering from smaller numbers of students on campus during the pandemic). Campus Recreation is also working on some updates to University Camp.

- b) LGBTQIA Advisory Network
Noel Fuller also shared an update from this committee. The committee discussed Governor Abbott's recent letter to Family Protective Services regarding children and families receiving gender-affirming medical care.

Texas State Alliance is working to draft a letter regarding this directive to send to Governor Abbott in response and is looking for campus groups to co-sign.

Noel will get more details about this letter to share with Council (including updated language) via Teams, and Council will vote to determine if they would like to sign on to this letter.

- c) Professional Development Advisory Committee
Jen Aguirre shared updates about Professional Development Day on May 24th.

There will be in person and online options available, and the committee is asking for volunteers to help with the event. For more details or questions, staff can reach out to hr_odc@txstate.edu

- d) Presidential Advisory Search Committee
Noel Fuller shared that the committee is still interviewing candidates but hope to have a list to send to the Chancellor for review.

- e) Vice President for Institutional Inclusive Excellence
Jennifer Small shared her thanks to Staff Council members who attended the interview luncheons and provided their feedback. The committee met yesterday to discuss the list of potential candidates and send that feedback to the President.

DISCUSSION
(11:00)

Item 3: Subcommittee Updates

a) Scholarships and Awards

Noel shared a reminder that deadline for scholarship applications is tomorrow (March 9th). More details about how to apply can be found on the Staff Council website:

<https://www.staffcouncil.txstate.edu/scholarship-awards/scholarships.html>

b) Compensation and Benefits

Kaite Alonzo shared updates from this subcommittee.

This subcommittee did get list of institutions that have tuition assistance programs, but the majority of those are endowment-based scholarships. Compensation and Benefits decided that it's not something that Staff Council can undertake at this time. However, those who are interested in potentially getting one start would need to work with University Advancement.

Another concern came in regarding public service loan forgiveness programs. There is a waiver you can apply for this year if not all of your payments had counted towards your years of service (through October 15th). There is a new page staff can go to in order to verify wage and employment history: <https://www.hr.txstate.edu/mdc/i2verify.html> Even if you haven't been eligible for the loan forgiveness program before, it might be worth looking into to determine if you now meet qualifications.

c) Fundraising

Martin Zavala shared updates from the Fundraising subcommittee. Raffle ticket packets were sent out last week to Council members, so members should check their physical mail for those if they haven't already.

Staff Council will be raffling off 5 permits this year, thanks to donations from Dr. Meaney (Department of Health and Human Performance), Dr. Polat (Department of Curriculum and Instruction), Dr. Michael O'Malley (College of Education), Dr. Kevin Fall (Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology), and Dr. Lisa Lloyd (Office of the President).

The raffle tickets are also being printed and donated by Print and Mail Services (thanks to Amanda Cardoso!).

This means 100% of the proceeds from the Fundraiser will go to Staff Council scholarships and awards.

Tickets are now available for sale, and if members need more Martin

should have them on Thursday. Staff Council will also send out an email to all faculty and staff with details about the fundraiser.

The drawing will be held during the May Staff Council General Meeting.

d) Elections

Martin Zavala also presented Elections subcommittee updates. In March, the committee will start the nomination process, which means in April they'll work on connecting with nominees to accept/decline those nominations. Elections should occur in mid-May.

Martin encouraged staff members to talk to their friends to consider nominating themselves (or others) who they think would be a good fit for Staff Council. Council will also have an opportunity for nominees to post information about themselves on the Council website.

DISCUSSION
(11:30)

Item 4: Announcements

Brandi Martinez, Chair

- a) Staff Shout-Out: Bianca Pavia – Administrative Assistant III, Office of International Affairs
- b) Bobcat Build (March 11 sign up deadline)
Staff Council isn't creating a Bobcat Build group this year, but Council wanted to share this deadline with everyone in case anyone was interested in creating their own.
- c) Bobcat Pause (April 7)
Brandi was looking for a Staff Council member to attend Bobcat Pause since she has another commitment at that time. This ceremony is at 5:15pm, and if you are interested in volunteering email Brandi.
- d) Staff Development Day (March 24 proposal deadline)
See external committee update section for details.
- e) Athletics Faculty/Staff Appreciation Game (April 12)
Staff should receive more details about this via email.

UPDATE
(11:50)

Item 5: Review Pending Items

Brandi Martinez, Chair

- a) April 2022 General Meeting – Dr. Denise Trauth, President
Dr. Trauth will be attending our April meeting in response to the letter regarding remote work and energy conservation days; Eric Algoe and Dr. Lisa Lloyd will also be in attendance.
- b) May 2022 General Meeting – Chief Carmichael
Chief Matthew Carmichael, the new Chief of Police, is attending our May Staff Council meeting.

UPDATE
(11:50)

Item 6: Miscellaneous
Brandi Martinez, Chair

Brandi opened floor for additional comments or concerns. Illona mentioned taking donations from members of Staff Council or other interested staff members to donate a gift to Dr. Trauth on her retirement. You can email or Teams message Illona if you're interested in donating.

ACTION
(12:00)

Adjournment
Brandi Martinez, Chair

Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

Texas State staff are welcome to attend any Staff Council meeting. The list of meeting dates and locations can be found on the [Staff Council Website](#).

If there is a specific issue or concern you would like Council to address, please complete this [form](#). When submitting the form, you can remain anonymous if that is your preference.

All statements made during meetings of the Staff Council shall be privileged communication and remain confidential. Members and guests shall not be subject to retaliation or disciplinary action as a result of expressing their views at Council meetings.

Staff Council meetings are recorded. Guest speakers and associated Q&As may be posted to the Staff Council website. All other recorded portions of the meeting are used to ensure accuracy of transcript data for meeting minutes purposes.

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

This message was sent to all members of a mailing list established and maintained by Texas State University. Your inclusion in this list results from your relationship and status with the University and is not optional.