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1. Staff Council

1.1 Purpose and Goals

1.11 Goals

The goals of the Staff Council are to promote a positive atmosphere in the workplace; promote ideas that will serve to bring unity among the employees as a whole and the Divisions; further the professional development of the employees and to give wholehearted support to the mission of The University.

1.12 Purpose

The Staff Council is an advisory body through which eligible staff members may make recommendations to the President relative to interests, concerns, and issues that affect the staff of The University. The Council may make recommendations on general grievance policies but does not act on individual grievance issues. The Council may advise on specific institutional issues and otherwise act at the request of the President. The Council shall endeavor to keep staff members informed and in turn keep the President and administrative staff advised of needs and interests of the staff on issues and activities affecting them.

1.2 Membership and Composition

1.21 Membership and Composition

The Staff Council shall consist of voting and non-voting members as outlined below.

1.211 Voting members of the Council shall consist of eligible employees elected to serve as representatives. Eligible employees include all full-time staff, except those who report directly to the President, that have completed a minimum of six months of service.

1.212 The Council will have eleven (11) members, with a quorum of six (6), as follows:

Three (3) At-Large representatives

•Two (2) representatives from each of the following areas:

- Academic Affairs
- Business Affairs
- President
- Student Services

1.213 Ex-officio, non-voting members of the council will be the President of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and the immediate past chair of the Council.

1.22 Method of Election

1.221 The Staff Council shall direct elections as follows:

1.2211 In odd-numbered years, one (1) representative from each service area and two (2) from At-Large

1.2212 In even-numbered years, one (1) representative from each service area and one (1) from At-Large

1.222 All staff members who have completed six months of service by the date of the elections shall be eligible to vote.

1.23 Nominations Procedures

1.231 Human Resources shall distribute to each service area a list of eligible members from which candidates will be nominated, the first week of July. The form shall identify the service area, the number of nominations allowed, and instructions for the return of the form (manner, date, time, place).

1.232 All nominations shall be in writing.

1.233 After the closing date for nominations, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall count the nominations.

1.234 Nominees shall be determined according to the highest number of nominations received. The number of nominees to appear on the service area or At-Large ballot shall not exceed three (3) per position. Nominees to appear on the ballot shall be selected in descending order of nominations received until the required number is reached or the nomination list is exhausted.

1.235 The Nominations and Elections Committee shall notify the nominees that their names will be placed on the election ballots unless they withdraw by a specified date. If a nominee withdraws, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall select as a replacement the person who received the next highest number of nominations in the area in which the withdrawal took place. If insufficient nominations for a particular area occur, this matter will be referred to the Executive Committee for recommendation on further nominations.

1.24 Election Procedures

1.241 The Staff Council shall prepare, distribute and collect the election ballots utilizing a current list prepared by Human Resources.

1.2412 During the third week in July each eligible employee will vote for one representative from their area and one or two representatives for an at-large-position depending on the number of vacancies. Ballots shall be opened and counted by the Staff Council. The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be contacted by the Staff Council Chair to determine if candidate is interested. If not, the employee with the next highest number of votes will be contacted until a willing representative is identified. That person will be declared the declared the representative(s). In the event of a tie, both candidates will be interviewed by the Council and a winner will be selected by majority vote.

1.25 Vacancies

A vacancy that occurs through termination of employment, change of voting service area, promotion to a non-eligible position, expired term, resignation from the Council, or expulsion from the Council, shall be appointed by the Staff Council at its next meeting. The Council may use the list of nominees from the most recent vote of employees to determine potential appointees.

1.26 Removal from Office

Any elected representative can be removed from office for nonperformance of Council duties. A petition requesting such removal can be brought to the Executive Committee by a simple majority of the members of the service area or such removal may be initiated by action of the Council. The Executive Committee will investigate the matter on a case-by-case basis and will recommend action to the Council. The final decision will be made by the Council. Removal will be effective upon the vote of simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Council at which a quorum is present. Possible causes of removal shall include, but not be limited to: non-attendance (missing more than three consecutive meetings per year); failure to consistently report on activities of the Council to the service area; unavailability of the representative to constituents.

1.27 Terms of Office

The terms of office for representatives shall begin September 1st following their election. Terms shall be for two years, and no representative shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive two year terms.

1.3 Duties and Responsibilities of Representatives

1.31 Representatives shall attend all meetings of the Council.

1.32 Representatives shall serve on committees of the Council and may be elected as an officer of those committees.

1.33 Representatives shall be available to their constituents, indicating how they can be contacted. They shall be willing to hear concerns, to receive information and suggestions, and to communicate these effectively to the Council. In turn, representatives must keep their constituents informed of the work of the Council and matters that the administration communicates to the Council.

1.34 Representatives shall be allowed up to four (4) hours per month in addition to Council meetings to devote to Council work. Additional time for Council work or assignments may be negotiated with the representative's supervisor

1.4 Officers and Elections

1.41 Titles of Officers

The officers of the Council shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Past Chair.

1.42 Election

1.421 Each year at the September meeting, the Council shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary.

1.422 Nominations shall be by secret ballot for each office individually. All nominees shall be members of the Staff Council. Election will require a majority vote.

1.43 Duties of Officers

1.431 Chair

The Chair shall

- preside at all meetings of the Council and chair the Executive Committee
- notify members of meeting dates and send out agendas for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Council meetings
- abide by the stated rules of order when conducting meetings
- refer all matters submitted for the Council's attention to the appropriate committee(s) and/or to the President
- maintain and update a calendar of events relevant to the Council for the coming year

- prepare a written annual report of the past year's activities and progress and make it available to all members of the Council prior to the September meeting
- serve as ex-officio member of all Council committees
- serve as liaison to the President, both keeping the President informed regarding concerns of the Council and seeking the President's support and advice on behalf of the Council.

1.432 Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall

- preside over the Council in the absence of the Chair or in the event the Chair requests the Vice Chair to serve during the course of a meeting
- assist the Chair in performing leadership responsibilities
- accept names of persons interested in serving on standing committees and to make appointments on the basis of the person's preference where possible committees in consultation with the Executive Committee
- make appointments to fill regularly occurring vacancies on committees in consultation with the Executive Committee
- call a meeting of any committee that is not fulfilling its responsibilities
- make and distribute yearly, immediately following appointments, a list of Council committees and their members to all Council members
- compile a list of staff suggestions/ideas/concerns to be brought before the Council.

1.433 Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer

- shall be responsible for minutes of each Council meeting, including the distribution of minutes to representatives at least ten work days before the next scheduled meeting of the Council
- collect, receive and maintain at a central location, minutes of Council meetings, minutes of committee meetings, and annual reports
- serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee, keep minutes of the Committee's meetings and notify its members of meeting dates and locations
- initiate and maintain the system of overlapping terms and for verifying the number of representatives authorized each voting district

- be responsible for all financial aspects of the Council functions, including maintaining accurate records of all Council financial activities, and reporting on these activities at each Council meeting.

1.434 Past Chair

In the interest of continuity in the Council's work, following the Chair's term of office, the Chair shall become Past Chair for one year to act in an advisory capacity to the Council and the Executive Committee. Unless re-elected as a representative, the Past Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the Council.

1.44 Terms of Office

The terms of office for Council officers shall be one year. A representative shall not hold more than one office at a time, and no representative shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. However, a representative who assumes an unexpired term for less than six months may be elected for two full consecutive terms.

1.45 Unexpired Term - In the event that the Chair is unable to complete the elected term of office, the Vice Chair shall assume the vacant office for the length of the unexpired term. In the event that the office of Vice Chair, or Secretary, becomes vacant, a special election shall be held by the Chair in order to fill the vacant office for the remainder of the term by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting. Such elections may be held at any regular meeting of the Council.

1.46 Transfer of Records

All papers pertaining to current Council business shall be transferred from outgoing officers to incoming officers. The Executive Committee shall insure that past records of the Council are maintained according to the UTPB Records Retention Policy.

1.5 Committees

1.53 Ad Hoc Committees

1.531 Ad Hoc committees of the Council will be appointed by the Staff Council as needs arise. Ad Hoc committees will elect a chair. The life of the committee will be determined by the matter under consideration and the committee will be disbanded when the purpose has been served. The number of members will be determined by the Staff Council.

1.532 General Duties of All Ad Hoc Committees

The Ad Hoc committees shall accept the issues assigned to the committee by the Staff Council; deal with the item in a responsible and timely manner; and make progress reports on its activities to the Council.

1.6 Meetings of the Council

1.61 Quorum

A minimum of fifty (50) percent of the current membership shall be the quorum required to conduct business at all meetings of the Council. In order to carry a motion, affirmative votes must be cast by a majority of those present and voting.

1.62 General Meetings

1.621 The Council shall meet once a month.

1.622 A two (2) day notice to all Council and all Ex Officio members shall be required.

1.623 Meetings shall be held during regular working hours.

1.624 Meetings are open to all University staff

1.63 Special Meetings

1.631 Special sessions (called meetings) can be requested by any member of the Council or the general membership by submitting a written request to an officer of the Council. The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice Chair, will decide on the appropriateness of the request and if appropriate will call a special session.

1.632 Special Meetings are held in executive session unless specified otherwise by the Chair.

1.64 Procedures

1.641 Agenda

1.6411 Meeting agendas will be written by the Chair and distributed prior to a scheduled meeting.

1.6412 Council members may submit to the Chair topics to include on the agenda.

1.6413 The Chair should be contacted if any staff person not on the Council wishes to address the Council. The Chair will then place the person on the agenda for the next meeting.

1.643 Agenda and Minutes of all meetings shall be distributed to all members of the Council and the Ex Officio members.

1.65 –Special Issues

1.651 Voting by Proxy – When a pre-planned vote has been scheduled for a particular meeting and a council member cannot attend, he/she may cast an absentee vote in writing or via e-mail, to any Council member or to the Chair prior to the meeting. If it is submitted by e-mail, the recipient must provide a hard copy at the meeting at which the vote will take place. The printed copy in either form should be entered into the official record and attached to the Secretary’s final hard copy of the meeting minutes.

1.652 E-mail Voting – The Chair may call for an e-mail vote if expedience is necessary and a meeting is not feasible. In such case, the issue on which the Council is voting will be fully explained in an e-mail from the Chair to all Council members. Each member will have twenty-four (24) hours to respond and cast a vote by e-mail. This response and e-mail vote should be sent to all members of the Council. A quorum must respond for the vote to be valid. Results of the vote will be disseminated to all Council members with twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the final vote or of the initial 24 hours, whichever comes first. Results of the vote will be noted in the minutes of the following meeting. Hard copies will be printed for documentation purposes and attached to the Secretary’s final hard copy of the meeting minutes.