

STAFF COUNCIL REPORTS

2007-2008

It is a hot July in Texas! As we quickly approach the end of the academic year, Staff Council would like to give you a brief update on what has happened this past year.

First of all, over 360 employees from all three campuses were honored this spring in the Pioneer Proud Award Recognition ceremony! What an awesome group of fabulous staff we have at TWU.

Staff Development Day was held on May 29th in Denton this year and on June 26th in Houston. We had a great turnout for both events. Retired Maj. Gen. Mary Saunders was the opening keynote speaker for the Denton event and former professional football player, Everson Walls was the Luncheon Speaker. Both gave inspiring speeches. We also had an assortment of sessions for staff to attend, from Purchasing/Travel to Nutrition and Fitness. All of the sessions were very informative and the Staff Council would like to thank all those who came and lead the sessions. If you were not able to attend this year, we hope you will plan to join us next year.

Houston also had a wonderful turnout this year. Guest speakers were Ann St. Germain who put on a delightful skit, Melissa Ozuna who was the service connection, and Robin Britt who lead building tours. We want to thank them for their time and effort to make the Houston Staff Development Day successful as well as all the Houston staff who attended.

Our Elections Committee made several changes to the Staff Council's constitution and by-laws which were voted on by the members of Staff Council. Some of the significant changes include:

- Member terms were increased from 2 years to 3, allowing for better continuity.
- Members must serve on Staff Council for one prior before becoming eligible for an officer position.

The Service Committee revisited the process of nominating TWU employees for the Pioneer Proud Award and recommended some amendments which were voted on by members of Staff Council. Some of the significant changes include:

- Pioneer Proud recognition ceremonies will only be held twice per year: one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Group nominations will no longer be accepted and must be done by individual staff members. The nomination form must include a justification of 25 words or more to be considered.

Other topics discussed and still in process include:

- Recycling: Facilities Management is currently researching various ways to implement a recycling system on campus.
- Vending Machines: Staff Council is currently working with the appropriate offices on campus to determine how contracts are set up for the vending machines and feasible ways to keep them consistent across campus. For example, routinely keeping them in stock, having fresh items, having consistent pricing, and hopefully quit taking our money!

Staff Council meets the first Tuesday of every month. We had several guests including Dr. Stuart, Mr. Palmertree, Dr. Nicholas, Dr. Floyd, and others, come and update Staff Council on various University projects. We received information about the new Fitness Center that will be built, Office 2007 that is rolling out across campus, the new Staff Performance Evaluation system, and much more.

Non-members of Staff Council are welcome to attend any of our open meetings to find out what issues are being discussed as well as serve on one of our committees (Information about the different committees and what they do will come out in our September/October Staff Council Reports issue). If you are interested in attending a Staff Council meeting or serving on one of our committees, email Tammy Hood at thood@twu.edu.

Hope you have a great summer and you will be hearing from Staff Council again at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester with lots of exciting updates.