

## STAFF COUNCIL SPEAKS!

We are now well into the Spring 2009 semester. Staff Council has been busy this year with record number of Pioneer Proud Awards, our first Fall Staff Development Day, advocating for better service for our vending machines, working on reinstating the staff privilege of extra time during the lunch hour to work out, and collaborating with Faculty Senate on a few proposals to present to administration – such as the Service Enhancement & Conservation (modified work week) proposal.

The Human Resource Committee has been working with the Fitness Center and HR in reinstating the staff privilege of extra time on our lunch hour when staff workout. More updates on their progress in the future.

Our Professional Development Committee is working hard on preparing for our Spring Staff Development Day in Denton and Houston. Announcements on dates and speakers will be coming.

Our first Fall Staff Development Day went very well. We had good response from staff on several of the sessions offered. Handouts from some of those sessions are on the Staff Council website under the Staff Resources link. Staff Council would also like to thank all the staff who filled out the Staff Survey. The feedback from this survey is invaluable in helping the University better serve the staff. Results of Staff Survey will be posted on the HR website.

The Awards Committee worked hard this past fall putting together the Pioneer Proud Award ceremony held in Denton, Dallas, and Houston. We had approximately 400 nominations for fall 2008!! The committee is gearing up for the spring ceremony. Be on the lookout for the nomination email.

As previously state, Jo Anne Hawthorne and Christina Williams have been meeting with Faculty Senate and collaborating with them on a few proposals to present to administration. One was the Service Enhancement & Conservation (modified work week) proposal. In which we proposed allowing the University to be open longer for students which would, in turn, allow for more flexible work hours to help with high gas prices and reducing the environmental footprint of TWU. The proposal, and response from administration, and more will be posted on the Staff Council website.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Vending Machine Survey last fall – emailing your complaints to Jana Bates in HR, and contacting the vending companies. Jana kept a list of all the complaints to pass on to Mr. Tuggle in Finance & Administration, who maintains vendor contracts. Mr. Tuggle plans to use those results and present them to our contracted vendors when he negotiates future contracts.

We had a few speakers this past fall semester come and present to Staff Council. Dr. Stuart, Chancellor and President of TWU came in November to speak to the council about the future developments and progress of the University. She is also scheduled to speak to Staff Council again in May. Chalese Conner, Director of TWU Athletics, spoke to the council in December about TWU's athletic programs and initiatives to foster Pioneer Spirit at TWU.

We have many more events coming up this semester with Staff Awards, Spring Staff Development Day, and Spring Pioneer Proud Award Ceremony. Please watch the Staff Council website for updates and be sure to contact us if you have any comments, questions, or concerns that you would like to see addressed in the future, using the "TALK TO US" link in the navigation menu.

To read the staff council meeting minutes, go to the Staff Council website at <http://www.twu.edu/staffcouncil/minutes.htm>.