

The University of Texas-Pan American  
Staff Senate - Your Advocate

[www.panam.edu/orgs/staffsenate/](http://www.panam.edu/orgs/staffsenate/)

AB Boardroom 316

Minutes for February 28, 2007

**I. Call to Order**

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Chair, Chelse Benham.

**II. Roll Call**

The following table reflects attendance.

Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Benham, Chelse	X		Gernent, LuAnn	X		Ocanas, Diana		X	Salazar, Gloria		X
Betancourt, Gilda	X		Gilpatrick, Gloria	X		Ovalle, Belinda		X	Salinas, Elizabeth	X	
Cano, Veronica	X		Gonzalez, Norfilia		X	Ramirez, Ricky			Taylor, Nick	X	
Cerda, Gabriel	X		Gonzalez, Victor	X		Ramos, Arturo	X				
Del Angel, Sonia		X	Loya, James	X		Rodriguez, Maria	X				
Espinoza, Alicia	X		Molina, Efrain	X		Saenz, Raul Jr.		X			

**III. Guests-** Rick Guerra, Vice President of Helping Hands

**IV. Reading and Approval of minutes:**

Approved with corrections. Motion to approve minutes by Gloria, Norfi 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

**V. Officer/Committee Reports**

**A. Chair**

- Chelse stated new senator Luann who replaced Katrina Luna.
- Nominations for Vice Chair
  - Art Ramos was nominated
  - Art accepted nomination
  - Luann 2<sup>nd</sup> nomination
  - Senate approved Art Ramos as new Vice Chair
- Nominations for Parliamentarian
  - Luann G. volunteered for Parliamentarian position
  - Gabriel Cerda seconded
  - Senate approved Luann G. as new Parliamentarian
- Pres. Council – This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the university as done a survey of University Excellence and voices are being heard that employees are not happy with pay. Moral is low.
- H.O.P pilot process – Committee (stake holders) will go over H.O.P. policies for update. Senators will be asked to join committees and give into on H.O.P.
- Compensation Study – Chelse reads email from Marg Whittemore to Katrina Luna regarding Compensation study.
- Chelse’s suggested that we create a united voice as a senate and provide in writing our opinion on comp. study to James R. Langabeer.

- Would also like to know from Mr. Langabeer why merit increase was used instead of giving everyone on campus a COLA raise. Not everyone gets a merit, but everyone does feel the cost of living increase
- Luanne G. asked if it states in the HOP that after so many years your job classification is revised
- Payroll – hourly and waged employees will be on the oracle system started as of March 1, 2007.
- Chelse created new committee – Scholarship Committee
  - 3 members will serve on this committee
  - Applications should have questions for their personal essay
  - Maria Rodriguez is going on record that there is not enough justification for creating the Scholarship Committee and does not agree with committee
  - Committee Members will be Luann G, Norfy Gonzalez, Gloria Gilpatrick
  - Gloria Gilpatrick stepped down as committee member and Maria Rodriguez will fill her place.

#### **B. Vice Chair**

- Art Ramos had no report

#### **C. Secretary**

- Liza Salinas had no report

#### **D. Parliamentarian**

- Luann G. had no report

#### **E. Communications**

- Efrain Molina reported that the committee met on
  - Discussed theme for Town hall – compensation study
  - Need date from Special Events for Town Hall meeting
    - Gloria mentioned that they have not met regarding date or theme. Possible date is May 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Town Hall meeting takes place of regular staff senate meeting.
    - Gabriel Cerda suggested subject for Town Hall Meeting could be Employee Rights issue. Gabriel stated that physical plant employees are switched around without enough notice to employee. It was suggested that Gabriel submit proposal to Special Issues on Employee Rights issue
- Gloria motioned to invite Mr. Langabeer or Marg Whittemore to attend next staff senate meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Gabriel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.
- Chelse will contact Mr. Langabeer and Marg Whittemore to attend next staff meeting.
- Senate approved motion

#### **F. Elections & Nominations**

- Committee will meet March 5<sup>th</sup> for labeling of nomination forms

#### **G. Special Issues**

#### **H. Special Events**

- Selection of staff award nominees were discussed and minutes of meeting were handed out.
- Chelse to submit memo to the president's office with the list of awardees and to request funds for the awards ceremony. In the past president's office pays for ½ and staff senate pays for half. Veronica also stated that the Scholarship form needs to be reviewed.

**VI. UTPA Committees**

- A. Parking and Traffic Committee – Met on 2/15/07.
- B. Marketing Advisory Committee – No Report. Has not met
- C. Institutional Planning & Assessment Committee (IPAC) – No Report, meeting rescheduled
- D. Employee’s Advisory Council (EAC) –No Report. Next scheduled meeting is March 24-26
- E. System Wide Insurance Advisory Council (SWIAC) – Art Ramos reported that claims went up 10%. Insurance goes up 5% and benefits will go down 5%.
- F. Wellness and Rec Committee – Chelse stated and went on record that we will pay \$380 because of shortfall. Dr. Edwards went on record and stated that there is no shortfall, and that all employees will be charged \$1 more than students.
- G. Cost of Education Committee - no report
- H. United to Serve Committee – No report. Next scheduled meeting is Friday March

**VII. Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss

**VIII. New Business:** There was no new business

**IX. Announcements:**

- X. **Adjourn** – Maria Rodriguez moved to adjourn. Gloria 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.