

## Minutes - Thursday, October 13, 2022

- **Call to Order** – 2:04 pm by Amanda
  - Special Guests
    - Dr. Walter Wendler, WT President
    - Randy Rikel, Vice President of Business and Finance
    - Shawn Burns, Chief of University Police
  - Approval of previous meeting minutes
    - Steven moved to approve, and motion seconded by Lynn
    - Unanimously approved
  - Approval of Treasurer's report
    - Steven moved to approve, and motion seconded by Lynn
    - Unanimously approved
  - Updates and comments from the President
    - President's Tailgate on October 22
      - Location is Alumni Banquet Hall
      - Make sure to RSVP for yourself and your plus one if applicable
    - EOM Chair Changes
      - Mike Young will step up to be the EOM Chair
    - Welcome Stephanie Loya and welcome back Stefanie West
    - Working on Open Forum with Student Government Association and Faculty Senate
      - Purpose of forum is to discuss incident on September 28<sup>th</sup> and new protocol
      - Will be an advantage for lots of people to hear and be on the same page
    - Amanda out of the office for work October 17 – 19 and October 24 – 27
      - Amanda will be recruiting in rural areas
      - Email, call, or text and she will answer when she gets access to wifi
    - Thank you card for Chip Chandler
      - Forgot to bring card, will complete this task during next meeting
      - Purpose of card is to thank Chip for the plethora of info-all he sends out on behalf of staff council
  - Staff Council Subcommittees
    - Employee of the Month Committee – Mike
      - Proposed an info-all email to be sent to staff to encourage nominations and include nomination
      - Julie will join EOM Committee
    - Fundraising Committee – Lynn
      - A meeting will be called when the next event is decided
    - Staff Appreciation & Events Committee – Lauren
      - Two events...
      - Thanks for Giving – Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> with pie and topping bar, drinks, bingo, photo booth and do not forget to bring a new toy as a donation... more details to come

- HoliGlaze – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> with donuts and hot coco... more details to come (Sign-up sheet will go around soon to staff event)
- Spirit Committee – Goodie
  - Halloween Ideas: Proposed on Halloween (Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>) reverse trick-or-treat with Staff Council dressing up and walking around handing out candy to different departments
  - An email will be sent within the next few days containing the written proposal
- Professional Development Committee – Stan
  - Birthday announcements have been going well
  - Gallery of Excellence will take place Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Cornette Library
  - Shoutout to people who have helped make this event possible
- Communications and Outreach Committee – Madison
  - Door contest got a lot of good feedback and engagement
  - Continue to engage with Staff Council social media pages
  - Email any upcoming events so they can be put on the schedule to post
- Election Committee – Dane
- New Business:
  - Fill vacant spots on Committees
    - Sign-up sheet was passed around
  - Changes to Treasurer and Fundraising Committee Chair – Dane
  - Approval Process for bylaw changes
    - Discussed the extensive approval process for bylaw changes
  - Approval and/or election of Treasurer and Fundraising Chair
    - Steven motioned to change bylaws and motioned seconded by Julie
    - Unanimously accepted
    - Lauren motioned to change specific bylaw (Article V Staff Council Officers, Section 2. Duties, Treasurer) and motioned seconded by Julie
    - Unanimously approved
    - Brittny motioned to accept bylaw change and motion seconded by Lynn
    - Unanimously approved
- Announcements:
  - Mental Health Training – Dane
    - October 21<sup>st</sup> on main campus, 17 people registered
    - November 4<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Center
  - Kudos or shoutouts
    - Amanda gave kudos to everyone
- Adjourn – 3:40pm

- Amanda introduces Special Guests
- Wendler began by stating the agenda was to inform of September 28<sup>th</sup> campus incident, but he wanted to make several general comments
- General comments included encouragement for staff to take advantage of 50% discount on tuition and fees and continue to serve others on campus and work hard
- Wendler briefly states there were slip ups on September 28<sup>th</sup> in communication chain and turns the floor over to Shawn Burns
- Dr. Wendler, Randy Rikel, and Shawn Burns proceed to move chairs to the front of the room
- Shawn Burns mentions Dr. Wendler was being kind but the slip ups in communication were not minor
- Shawn explains in detail the unfolding of the September 28<sup>th</sup> incident
- There was a library report of a student telling another group of students he wanted to be a serial killer. The group of students reported it to UPD. Officers were already familiar with the student and once reported to Burns, there was immediate collaboration with DA and Tulia police to arrest the student. The student at large had multiple reports but never crossed the line where UPD could legally act. The group of students who reported the incident texted many friends across campus. From there, there was miscommunication and students were led to believe there was an active shooter on campus. Another student called from their cellphone and reported an active shooter and said their current location was JBK room 308, which there is no such thing. The call went to Randall County or CPD, where they immediately acted and stormed the JBK. While Burns is in the middle of dealing with the DA and Tulia police to get the student arrested, he had no idea Randall County and CPD were entering the JBK to this alarming phone call. He had no idea because each agency (Randall County, CPD, and UPD) operate on different dispatch channels. Since the caller used their cellphone, it did not go through to the UPD. After learning all this information, Burns chose not to send a Buff Alert because he knew there was not an active threat on WT campus. The breakdown of communication came from Randall County and CPD not communicating their plan to roll hot and heavy into the JBK. In the meantime, the student who threatened campus was arrested promptly after the report, and the three agencies met at 7:30am the next morning to discuss a better communication plan in the time of crisis. There will now be one central dispatch for the agencies, and operations of each agency will occur on a separate dispatch. Training collaboratively will also take place in December. There is a shortage of officers in the Panhandle, but active shooter trainings will still take full swing.
- Dr. Wendler talks about cell phone use and encourages people to report things only to the pros who can handle these situations, not family and friend or via social media.
- Randy Rikel encourages everyone to download the SafeZone app and reminds everyone we are moving away from Buff Alert and to SafeZone. Rikel reminds people it is a personal decision how active shooters are dealt with and highly recommends attending active shooter training.
- Shawn Burns opens the floor for questions

- Staff Council member spoke and was bothered by her response when she called UPD. She asked what the situation was and for guidance. The individual who answered the phone responded they are aware of the situation and hung up.
- Shawn Burns responded by saying his communication person did not handle phones well at all and went over different training options provided to departments
- Rikel responded and said there is discussion of extra training for appointing building leaders / coordinators for crisis events
- Staff Council member 2 spoke and reiterated the need for mandatory training and mentioned her respect for their honesty about the situation. Staff council member 2 also implied the student success center is very vulnerable compared to other parts on campus.
- Shawn Burns responded that pretty is not defensible and defensible is not pretty. Perhaps a new design could be worked into the future. He also added training really cannot be mandatory and we cannot help people who do not want to help themselves. On the positive side, all agencies will be rolling hot and heavy in any crisis. Also, trainings can be held every night if that is what it takes. There is a video on YouTube that is very insightful to these types of situations. The challenge is turnover within the college and there is no such thing as a true lockdown do to and automatic doors fire codes. There are 7,000 doors on campus so there is not a budget to deadbolt everyone, but in areas of vulnerable there is a mechanical device proven to work.
- Dr. Wendler mentioned to be thoughtful and mindful about these dealings and social media create mass hysteria.
- Staff council member 3 spoke and was concerned how the student was admitted to campus let alone had so many reports. Every step the student took was an incident waiting to happen.
- Dr. Wendler answered that by the stroke of a pen a student is admitted, but on the contrary a stroke of a pen cannot get them expelled without legal reason. He was most likely given his second chance here, and he will be more thoughtful of figuring out ways to prevent this taking place again.