



**Staff Council General Meeting minutes for August 16, 2023**  
**Zoom Meeting 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**  
Minutes Recorded by Maria Estrada, Staff Council Secretary

**Board:** Tremaine Kwasikpui, Staff Council President; JR Sears, Staff Council President-Elect; Maria Estrada, Staff Council Secretary; Gerrelyn Davidson, Staff Council Treasurer; Rachael Hudspeth, Staff Council Communications Officer

**Guests:** Lisa Joyner, Vice-President of Student Success & Student Life; Christian Purdy, Manager, Projects, Compliance and Communications.

**Call to Order:** The Staff Council general meeting was called to order by Staff Council President, Tremaine Kwasikpui around 10:04 am.

**Reports:** Mr. Kwasikpui greets and welcomes attendees to the Staff Council General Meeting for August 16, 2023.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the July 2023, minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Welcome New Gators**

Mr. Sears introduces the new UHD gators/employees.

- Debra McGaughey, Assistant Vice President, University Relations
- Marlene Chavez, Coordinator, Administrative Services
- Ashley Bonilla, Graduate Academic Advisor II
- Hayden Bergman, Manager, Communications
- Divya Bhati, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness
- Denise Ingram, Assistant Director, Research & Sponsored Programs
- Samuel Solomon, Program Assistant, Talent Search
- Marina Vallarino, Program Manager, Bilingual Reading

**Edge Grant Recipient**

Ms. Davidson introduces the Edge Grant recipients for the month of August.

- August Recipient: Dr. Rachel Hudspeth

**Lisa Joyner, Vice-President of Student Success & Student Life (3SL)**

- Vice-President Joyner introduces herself and elaborates on department team initiatives, such as new clubs and organizations.
- She discusses her plan of contacting different UHD departments and staff to discuss collaboration efforts.
- Other initiatives also involve more student service-learning opportunities.

## **Staff Awards Ceremony Presentation**

**Christian Purdy, Manager, Projects, Compliance and Communications; Employment Service Operations**

- The 2023 Staff Awards will be held on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the A300 Special Events Center.
- Staff Impact Awards:
  - Student Success Award- \$1000 monetary award
  - Leadership Award-\$1000 monetary award
  - Rookie of the Year Award-\$500 monetary award
  - Goes the Extra Mile Award-\$500 monetary award
  - Teamwork Award- one day of paid leave each for each member of the team as well as a pizza party for the team
- The President's Staff Excellence Award:
  - \$3500 monetary award
- Nominations end at 5:00 p.m. on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Purdy also informs everyone that effective September 1, 2023, the ESO department will be changing its name to the Human Resources department.

## **Upcoming Events**

- August 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>-Welcome Week Events (event calendar is available online)
- September 9<sup>th</sup> - GatorServe at 9/11 Day of Remembrance from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> - National Night Out with UHD PD from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- October 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>- Homecoming Week
- November 11- Belinda Hernandez, MDCOB Web Support Specialist, will be participating in the Ride to End ALZ bike ride. More teams, riders, and volunteers are needed. She invites UHD staff to join or support her ride through a donation.

## **Staff Good News**

- For her contributions to the college/university mailing/shipping industry, Ms. Deborah Evans was awarded Mail Excellence Manager of the Year from the National Association of Colleges/University Mail Service at the national conference held in Rhode Island on July 21-26. She was also ranked #1 on the Whova app for her interactions throughout the conference.

## **Final Report**

Mr. Kwasikpui gives his final report remarks.

- He begins by thanking the 22-23 Staff Council Board Members for their hard work. He acknowledges some of the accomplishments:
  - Including an increase in staff participation in staff council meetings, the finalization of the staff ombudsman policy, holding a system Staff Council meeting in July, coloration with Student Activities to sponsor 50 staff for the Bayou Batch, we successfully brought Vice-Presidents to staff council meetings, and created a walk-around with the President.
  - Mr. Kwasikpui thanked the staff council board members, UHD staff and welcomed the 23-24 Staff Council President, Mr. Sears.

## **General Q&A**

**Question:** Harris County officials evacuated their employees at 9 am while UHD employees were filing into work. Harris County began posting on social media by 10 am to the community advising them to stay clear of the area while UHD employees remained clueless. Finally, UHD locks down the buildings for a while of 49 minutes while things are wrapped up at the jail. Who is responsible for making decisions that keep the campus community safe? We were overlooked. Locking down the building after the fact inspires very little confidence in UHD's emergency protocols.

**Answer:**

Timeline recap

10:26 a.m. -UHDPD notified.

10:29 a.m. – UHD Executive Cabinet members were notified.

10:40 a.m. – UHD Campus Buildings Secured-exterior doors/security and police officers assigned to each building/Officers were also stationed in the parking lots and the Hike and Bike Trail leading to San Jacinto Street near the jail.

11:07 a.m.- UHD Alert sent to campus community/Secure the building.

12:04 p.m.- UHD Alert sent to the campus community/ All buildings are open/Traffic has resumed on San Jacinto St.

12: p.m.- UHD PD Command Staff After Actions review.

**Question:** Can we discuss how the decision to use Chartwells Catering services came about?

**Answer:** We will let Vice-President Kim Thomas know this question came up so she and her team can provide further information.

**Question:** Is there more information about Metro Rideshare sponsored program was discontinued for employees?

**Answer:** We will let Vice-President Kim Thomas know this question came up so she and her team can provide further information.

**Question:** Is there an update on the elevators?

**Answer:** Elevators are being worked on. We will ask for an update.

Mr. Kwasikpui encourages staff to email him to join a committee. There are various committees that can help staff advocate for their needs.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Kwasikpui at approximately 11:00 a.m.