

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR 4-24-2007

The meeting began at 2p.m. on 4-24-2007. All officers were in attendance, except for Debra Clifton the secretary.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The first order of business was to introduce guest speaker Germaine Porche. Germaine Porche is a coaching expert who has conducted research, authored several books, and given lectures on the art of improving performance, motivating groups, and coaching. She also works as a consultant for Germaine Porche Johnston Consulting Group which is located in Kingwood, TX. As a consultant, Ms. Porche specializes in working with organizations to improve the performance of operations, productivity, and leadership. She has fifteen years of experience working as a consultant coaching executives as well as individuals and groups at various levels to provide strong business results and improve performance. Ms. Porche has much in common with the members of our organization because she was a non-traditional student, and she shared several of her own stories and experiences of being a student with the members who attended the meeting. She told the members of NTSO that you have to believe in yourself and work hard to achieve a goal. Ms. Porche also explained that it helps to form a support system consisting of friends and family when someone attends college as a non-traditional student. The added support is needed for influence and motivation. She gave advice to the NTSO members by explaining that they should not give up if a goal is difficult to achieve. Ms. Porche explained that she had difficulty with economics in the beginning of her studies, and called several economics professors until she could find one that would be willing to spend one-on-one time with her. She also took several credit exams when she returned to college, which helped her to advance more quickly, and she graduated with a bachelor degree in just two years. She shared with us that she also enrolled full-time for the entire two years, and took time away from work during the summer in order to concentrate on completing the bachelor degree. Ms. Porche now has a master's degree in operations and spends time conducting research and giving lectures on coaching as well as continuing her work to help businesses to improve performance. We thank Ms. Porche for the inspiring discussion, and we hope that she will join us again in the future as a speaker.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The second order of business was the upcoming elections which will be held over the internet. We are still trying to gather enough officers to run. As soon as we have the ballot completely filled with officer candidates we will conduct the election through email. So far, the following NTSO members have come forward and agreed to run for an office: Ray Martin – Vice President, Karmen Crabb – Secretary, and Meagan Nappier – Business Manager. Angi Bremkamp also had indicated that she is very interested in coming back for a second year and she might be running for President again. An announcement will be made over the listserv explaining when the election will begin and it will include instructions about which email address to send the votes too. We also discussed some changes that need to be made to the constitution for the upcoming year. We would like to have a clause added to the constitution stating that the members of NTSO must attend at least one meeting or social event during each long semester for NTSO participation to be included on the student's co-curricular transcript and to be classified as an official member of the organization. The students who are unable to participate can remain on the listserv in order to receive updates on current events that are taking place with the organization. We hope that this new clause will help to improve and maintain active participation during the upcoming year.

OTHER ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

NTSO was awarded the Sammy Award for Outstanding Community Service Project at the Sammy Awards Ceremony. This is the second Sammy Award that the organization has won within the past two years. We had a great year for NTSO and hope for many more to come in the future. All of the officers worked very hard this year, and participation improved at the beginning of the year. For next year, lets work on really improving participation with the members of NTSO. Have a great summer and we would like to wish everyone good luck with their continued studies.

Typed by: Andrea Woodlief, NTSO-Business Manager