

## **Non-Traditional Student Organization Minutes, February 24, 2005:**

### **I. Call to Order:**

- NTSO President Frances Crawford Fennessy called the meeting to order at 11:45a.m.

### **II. Minutes of the February 24, 2005 meeting:**

- Financial Aid Coordinator Doug Wright, and Financial Aid Counselor Terri Colley were guest speakers at the meeting.

### **III. President's Announcement:**

- Frances Crawford Fennessy announced that the theme, "Denim and Diamonds," has been selected for the formal dance which will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- The men will be allowed to wear blue jeans to the dance, while the women can wear formal dresses or gowns.
- Admission to the dance will be \$10 per ticket, which will include full dinner and music.
- For information about tickets contact Dr. Keri Rogers (at: 294-3422 or [krogers@shsu.edu](mailto:krogers@shsu.edu)), our faculty advisor, for the organization or Frances (at: 294-1995 or [roughneckbooks@hotmail.com](mailto:roughneckbooks@hotmail.com)).
- You can also purchase tickets at the next meeting.
- Student activities will provide a D.J. for the dance.
- In addition, Student Activities has changed their procedures for our monthly meetings. They will be providing cookies and drinks for the NTSO meetings instead of lunches from this point forward.

### **IV. Vice-President's Announcement:**

- John Fennessy announced the garage sale will be coming up very soon.
- This event is important for fundraising, since there are no dues required to be a member of NTSO.
- Donations and volunteers are needed for the garage sale.
- The coordinator for the O'Reilly's shopping center has agreed to let NTSO use the parking lot for the event.
- This event will probably happen the first weekend of April. We are waiting for confirmation in regard to the date.

### **V. Business Manager's Announcement:**

- Ralph Bales talked about the baseball day that is tentatively planned for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- This will be a family event and a day to bring the kids and have fun.
- There will be a price reduction in the sale of hotdogs, cake, and chips.

### **VI. Additional Announcements:**

- Cindy Lindquist announced that the Crime Victim's Services Alliance will be having a fashion show in support of Saafehouse and the Elite Repeat store on the square.
- Donations and volunteers are needed to help with the event.
- For more information contact the Cindy or the Crime Victim's Services Alliance.
  
- Dr. Keri Rogers announced that the Sammy Awards will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in the LSC Theater.
- This is an opportunity to nominate someone for student leadership.
- There has been a category added for outstanding non-traditional student leader.
- The nominations are due by March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- If you would like to nominate someone from this organization or elsewhere, you can get a nomination form from the Student Activities office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the LSC.
- There is no fee to nominate someone.

- The nomination form is a short, fill-in-the-blank sheet that can be easily filled out in about 5 minutes.
- You do not have to be a member of any organization to nominate someone.
- The Student Health Care Center is free for students, and prescriptions are discounted.
- The Counseling Center, in the LDB annex, offers help with stress management, relationships, and couples.
- Legal aid is also available in the LDB annex for those students who might need legal advice.
- Dr. Bernice Strauss from the Sam Center offers help with study skills counseling.
- Students are now only allowed five “Q’s” on their transcripts starting fall, 2004. If a student exceeds five “Q’s” then out of state tuition will be charged.

## **VII. Discussion with Guest Speakers:**

- Financial aid is researching the aid options for dual enrollment (college enrolled) high school seniors.
- Tuition reimbursements are offered through the state for undergraduates, but certain criteria must be met.
- If you have dropped more than two classes, then you are not eligible for the reimbursement.
- More information can be found about tuition reimbursements at [www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com).
- There is a special loan called the “Texans be on Time” loan which can be forgiven if you graduate with a “B” average or better within four years.
- The “Texans be on Time” loan must be claimed as income on yearly taxes if the loan is forgiven.
- More information can be found about the “Texans be on Time” loan at [www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com).
- The amount awarded for Pell grants can never be reduced, but loans, other grants, and late scholarships can be reduced to meet the yearly undergraduate financial aid limit.
- \$15,973 is the yearly limit for undergraduate financial aid, composed of a combination of grants, loans, and work study.
- Certain students who are eligible might choose to use some of their financial aid to pay back loans, as a rebate to the lender.
- More information can be found about pay back rebates through the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation or by visiting this website: [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).
- The summer supplement form for financial aid is due ASAP.
- The priority deadline for the supplement form is February 28, 2005, and the extended deadline is March 31, 2005.
- An undergraduate student must take 6 hours each summer session to be eligible for financial aid over the summer.
- A graduate student must take 3 hours each summer session to be eligible for financial aid over the summer.
- For students who do not qualify for federal financial aid, there are alternative loans offered that are not certified by the school.
- More information on alternative loans can be found by visiting the website [www.terri.com](http://www.terri.com), or by contacting Chase, Campus Door, or Lonestar websites.
- The limit for federal loans is approximately \$10,000 per year for undergraduates and \$18,000 per year for graduates.
- If you start a new program in the spring semester, such as a graduate program, then the yearly limit for federal loans starts over again, and you should qualify for loans over the following summer.
- Financial aid does not usually have to be reported as taxable income.
- There is no help on campus for preparing taxes and the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit, but software such as Turbo Tax can be downloaded for free from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for tax preparation.

- The Turbo Tax software is quick and easy, and most people receive the tax refund within one to two weeks directly into a personal bank account.
- If you will be attending a different university for graduate school, then you must contact the financial department of the university that you are interested in for information regarding aid.
- Upon graduation, the exit exam for financial aid must be completed, or a hold will be placed on the student's transcript.
- If a student is not eligible for financial aid, then the decision can be appealed if the denial is based on a change of major.
- Students are eligible for aid in four different areas after graduation: teacher's certification, 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelors, masters, and doctoral.
- Doctoral aid is determined on individual basis based on the amount of hours completed as a post-bachelor/graduate student.
- Doctoral students are accepted on a conditional basis during the first semester, but financial aid is still awarded.
- Links for scholarship information include: [www.collegetexans.com](http://www.collegetexans.com), and [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).
- SHSU scholarship information can be found at: [http://www.shsu.edu/~sfa\\_scholarship.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~sfa_scholarship.html).
- For additional questions about financial aid, feel free to stop by the financial aid office located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Estill building.

**VIII. Next Meeting:**

- The next NTSO meeting will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.
- A representative from Career Services will be present to discuss the job search process, resume building, and interview preparation.
- The meeting will be held in LSC 315, from 11:45a.m. to 1p.m.
- Become a member of the NTSO listserv, and receive announcements of the meetings and events by email.
- We will also have candidates for NTSO Officer Elections speak to members who are present.
- In addition, we will vote for a change in the NTSO Constitution at this meeting.

**IX. Adjournment:**

- The NTSO meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by:  
 Andrea Woodlief  
 NTSO Secretary