

Non-Traditional Student Organization

Meeting Minutes for 3-27-2007

The eighth meeting of the year official started at 2p.m. on 3-27-2007. Debra Clifton was the only officer not present at the meeting.

First Order of Business:

Today we had Dr. Bernice Strauss, the new NTSO faculty advisor and the Director of Academic support programs for the SAM Center as a guest speaker. We first discussed with Dr. Strauss the decrease in participation that the organization is once again experiencing. Dr. Strauss suggested that we answer these questions:

- What is it that we can do to increase participation to NTSO?
- What is it that we offer the non-traditional student at SHSU?
- How can we get the NTSO name out there?
- Do we try to focus on the needs of the non-traditional student?
- If we are not meeting the needs, then what can we do to fix the problem?

We have common issues and binding together will help us to get them heard and addressed. We need to educate the faculty as well as the students in regards to the needs of the non-traditional students. We also discussed that a lot of our students are currently students at the university center. She suggested that we contact Dana Flores to see about holding a meeting there once a month to accommodate those members. We also discussed on-line meetings using the virtual classroom in blackboard. Now that we have implemented blackboard we would like to get more use out of it. We have discussion groups posted and nobody has commented on them. We can do online meetings but we need to know when would be a good time to do so. Perhaps scheduling will increase our participation.

Second Order of Business:

Dr. Strauss then gave us a short lecture on Time Management. She gave us some great ideas about how to plan so we are not so stressed with family life, work and school. She was once a non-traditional student herself and had some really great advice. She reminds us that being a juggler requires planning. Planning is a big part of how to manage one's time. This helps to keep things running smoothly. In addition she says that we have to learn to say NO and not feel guilty for it (especially we ladies, and sometimes the gentlemen, have a huge issue with this). You will upset people by telling them no so be prepared. All too often we overextend ourselves when we don't need to. You have to be able to not spread yourself too thin if you are going to succeed. Dr Strauss knows the things we go threw as non-traditional students, because she was once one as well. She also advises that we set goals for ourselves. Do not set too many of them at once. If you do you will be setting yourself up for failure. Also, do not plan on getting rewarded for everything you do. Rewards are very hard to come by. One last word of advice is take the time and go to a study skills workshop. It

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will help you learn how to study efficiently and manage your time better. There are many scheduled throughout the year to attend. They are free of charge so take advantage.

Other Orders of Business:

At our next meeting, on April 24th, we will be having Germaine Porcha come and share her success story with us as a fellow non-traditional student. Also we would like to mention that we did raise \$332.00 to give to the HDSA and we are up for another award this year. The organization has been nominated for OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT and OUTSTANDING SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATION. Keep your fingers crossed that we will win another Sammy Award this year.