

# NTSO Transitional Meeting

## May 3rd, 2006

### First Order of Business:

Welcoming of new officers for the 2006/2007 school year by outgoing president Andrea Woodlief.

NTSO officers are as follows

- President :John Fennessy
- Vice-President: Ava Battle
- Business Manager: Angi Bremkamp
- Secretary: Debbie Clifton
- Webmaster: Andrea Woodief

We also welcome to the meeting Dr. Bernice Strauss as a guest speaker and Vinessa Mundorff who has come on as our meeting adviser. Also in attendance was Frances Fennessy whom is an original co-founder and former president of our organization.

### Second Order of Business:

John opened the meeting by reading his letter that is to be posted the following day 5/2/2006 to all members of NTSO. His letter brings up several situations for our members and other non-traditional students, but most importantly **participation** of our members. We discussed the importance of participation of our members which is a very high priority. In the words of John "Participation is extremely important and essential to our organization to keep it going". We are in need of more members. There are some 2000 students at SHSU that qualify as "Non-Traditional", yet we only have about 200 members. **IF WE ARE TO KEEP NTSO GOING WE NEED MEMBERS AND MEMBERS PARTICIPATING!**

### Third Order of Business:

If we are going to get funding we need more members that are participating in our organization. Apparently it is essential to have people to be actively participating in this organization to get funding back. Last year it was yanked in the middle of the year. It would help to have some of our members to participate in the SGO. Because the student government organization is a very large voice here on campus it would also help to have some members of the NTSO acting as senators. If we have this then we will have more of a voice for the issues that non-traditional students face such as family housing and day care, among other things. Without a voice we can not be heard.

Student Government Organization meetings are on Tuesdays at 5:00pm. There is also an application posted on our website for SGA senate positions. There is a requirement that one must sit in on at least two of their meetings in a row in order to be considered for the position. The things that need to be addressed with the SGA are: Family housing- it has been discontinued at SHSU with no plans to reintegrate the program. Why are our housing needs unimportant?

Bearkitten Academy has closed. In light of this some of our students have lost the access to childcare. Furthermore there are many students at SHSU that are in need of a daycare for their children. Many of those students are not members of NTSO and may not even know what the Non-Traditional Student Organization is.

Funding for NTSO-our funding was pulled in the middle of the year last year and we would like to get it back.

### Fourth Order of Business:

What are our plans for NTSO? Where are we going? Who is in control? What are our long term plans? What kind of funding do we need? What ideas do we have for events for NTSO?

- More family oriented outings. We discussed doing something like a picnic/party day at Sam Houston National Park or double lakes or something of the sort. There are many parks and things that are within a half hour driving distance. Our goal is to accommodate students and their families so that we may socialize with each other and have our families (and pets for some) in tow. We are after all a social organization. We would like to plan this far in advance and have it on a weekend so that everybody or at least as many as possible are able to attend.
- We would like to have a banner made up so that we can compete with the other organizations on campus.
- Business cards and flyers would help us to advertise our organization some more and bring in new members.
- We need ideas to bring in new members-the more we have the better our organization is.
- We would like to link ourselves to other organizations such as Project Connect. Project Connect is an organization that helps students that are first generation college students or low income or both. Almost all of these students qualify as non-traditional students. Andrea will be posting some info on our website for our members to check out and see if they qualify.
- We would like to look at other NTSO's at other colleges and see how they operate and how we could make ours better. Perhaps look into a national non-traditional organization. John mentioned perhaps some of our members taking a weekend trip to go and do this.
- We would like to begin rotating meeting days from month to month. One month meet on Tuesday from 11:45-1 and the next month on Wednesday from 11:45-1. The idea behind this is to increase participation.
- We would like to bring in panels of businesses to talk to us and do more networking so that we can increase the job opportunities for our members. We could have the company representatives talk to us about things like advice on what employers are looking for in potential employees, interviewing techniques as well as other advice.
- Last but not least we would like to network with other areas of the university such as the alumni association.

**THE NEW OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO STARTING OUR THIRD YEAR IN 2006/2007 AND BUILDING THE ORGANIZATION TO BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THINGS FOR THE FUTURE.**

Upcoming Activities: May 6th, Banquet at Margarita's Restaurant 7p.m.; May 20th, Baseball Day after Finals at SHSU New Baseball Field - Free Admission for Children and Students with an SHSU ID, \$2.50 Burger/Soft Drink Combo