

staff council

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2009



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thank You!	1
Letter from the Chair	1
Spotlight on Staff	1
Follow the 3 R's	2
Year in Review	2
What's In Store	2
The Votes Are In	2

Are you winding down from spring and enjoying the beginning of summer or gearing up for the never-ending new student orientation sessions? No matter what you have planned, the SHSU Staff Council wants you to know your hard work this year has not gone unnoticed. Council members are proud to represent such outstanding members of the University community, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to share highlights of the Staff Council's efforts over the past year.



Letter from the Chair

Dear SHSU Staff Members:

As I reflect upon my SHSU Staff Council membership, participation and service, I realize that not only has this organization been important to me personally but also to my professional development. Because of my association with Staff Council, I have had a voice and input into some of what happens here on our campus.

Not a week goes by when an idea does not trigger a thought that leads me to evaluate how we operate or gives me an idea about a potential new concern to offer our Council to consider and/or act upon. While I have served this University in a number of capacities, one that has made a difference in my professional life is the opportunity I have had to serve on the SHSU Staff Council. This experience has provided me with an opportunity to grow and to work with people from different departments across campus, something I would not have been afforded if I had not taken that big step to participate in a much broader way. With that said, I would like to strongly encourage you to consider getting more involved with the SHSU Staff Council.

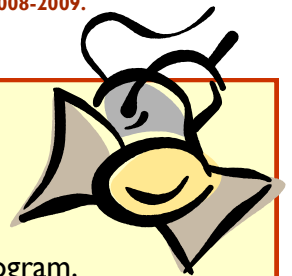
All staff members are invited to attend any of the regular Staff Council meetings. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in LSC 304. Also, please check out our website and our "Spotlight on Staff" on the "Today@Sam" homepage.

We have just completed our election process for next year's membership, and I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new members, as well as our new alternates, to serve on Staff Council. I truly hope that your experiences with the Staff Council will be as rewarding as mine have been. I have enjoyed serving as the Council Chair this past year and wish Kayla Stephenson the best of luck next year as she takes over the helm as Chair of the Staff Council.

Sincerely,
Terri Harvey

Mrs. Terri Harvey works in the SHSU Testing Center and served as chair for 2008-2009.

Spotlight on Staff

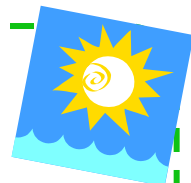


In the fall 2008 newsletter, we introduced the Spotlight on Staff program. Since that time, the Staff Council Public Relations Committee has had the honor of recognizing (and surprising) nine staff members to show appreciation for the work he or she performs at the University. Each recipient has provided a short bio, which is posted on Today@Sam and the SHSU Staff Council website, www.shsu.edu/staffcouncil. We invite you to take a moment to read about each individual and celebrate his/her commitment to SHSU. You could be next!





Do You Follow the 3 R's? Year in Review



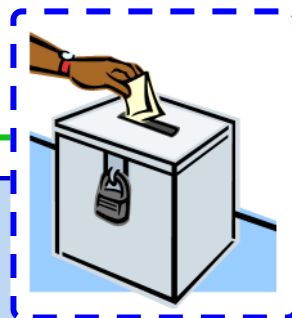
Do you reduce, reuse and recycle? In collaboration with the City of Huntsville Solid Waste department and PromoWorld, the SHSU Staff Council collected several hundred pounds of recyclable plastic, paper, and glass on Earth Day, April 22, 2009, in the LSC Mall Area. Faculty, students and staff participated in making the event a success, and the Council hopes to repeat the program in the future. On a daily basis on campus, we encourage you to collect non-confidential waste paper for recycling. Be sure to break down cardboard boxes for recycling, too. Simply call the SHSU Recycling department at 294-1877 to request a pickup when your department collection box is full. This helps keep our dumpsters from filling up with empty boxes. Finally, once you finish with the daily newspaper, deposit it in the recycling container next to the newspaper racks rather than pitching it in the trash. If you would like to participate in the next Earth Day event or have suggestions for daily recycling opportunities, please contact the Staff Council.

What's In Store

The Staff Council is excited about our new members and alternates and is looking ahead to next year. The annual Staff Council Fall Social is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009. Mark your calendars, and be sure to bring your staff ID card. Due to the popularity of this event, we will be checking IDs to be sure all staff have the opportunity to attend. As always, the Friends of Staff Council account welcomes donations to support the efforts of the Council, now and in the future. Contributions are tax deductible and can be routed through University Advancement. Give them a call at 294-3625 if you are interested or have questions.

Each SHSU staff member is invited to the regularly scheduled Staff Council meetings. In the event you were not able to attend recently, we would like to highlight topics the Council addressed. Typically, discussion topics are brought forward as concerns, and this year we discussed smoking on campus, overflowing dumpsters in parking lots and foot traffic areas, and limited availability of bicycle racks and bikes tethered to handrails and lampposts. In addition, the Council took an active role in updating the signatures required on a staff transfer form maintained by Human Resources, we hosted an extremely successful Earth Day Recycling Drive, and staff supported the Jeans for Genes day, which benefitted the Immune Deficiency Foundation.

Lastly, the Staff Council updated its by-laws to better serve the Council and the SHSU staff. The most significant improvement was the manner in which members represent the university staff. In the past, voting and non-voting members on the Council represented staff according to Equal Employment Opportunity categories: administrative, professional, clerical, technical/para-professional, skilled craft, and service/maintenance. After much consideration, the Council decided to move away from the categories and elect members based on university division: President's Office/Athletics, Academic Affairs, Student Services, Finance and Operations, University Advancement, and Enrollment Management. It is the goal of the Council to provide access to all SHSU staff, regardless of category or division. Meeting dates and times are posted on the Staff Council website, www.shsu.edu/staffcouncil. We hope to see you soon and often.



The Votes are In

Thanks to the SHSU Staff Council Nominations and Election Committee, the Staff Council enjoyed a huge turnout during its recent elections. The number of staff nominations and ballots was significantly higher than previous election cycles, and the results are in. If you were nominated, but not elected during this cycle, we sincerely hope you will consider attending regular meetings and seek membership again in the future. To see a full roster for the 2009-2010 SHSU Staff Council, including alternates, please visit www.shsu.edu/staffcouncil.

As a reminder, alternates (non-voting members) are encouraged to attend each regular meeting of the Staff Council, although the attendance policy applies to voting members. In the event a voting member leaves the Council, the Executive Committee fills the position with an alternate. SHSU staff members are encouraged to contact Staff Council members with questions or concerns. Minutes of past meetings are available at www.shsu.edu/staffcouncil, where you can also find a summary of previous discussion topics in the FAQ.