

**UNT Parent Association  
Regular General Meeting Minutes  
26 April 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

President Sheri Kantner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the UNT Alumni Center, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. Those in attendance constituted a quorum. Executive Committee members present were President Sheri Kantner, President-Elect Tony Hill, Past President Elizabeth Cheney, Secretary Mark Grayson, Treasurer Sharon Wainscott, and Historian Teresa Tavares.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The Agenda of the 26 April 2014 meeting and the minutes of the 12 October 2013 meeting were available for review by members prior to the meeting.

*Motion: Cathy Humenesky moved to approve the minutes of the 12 October 2013 meeting and Cindy Clement seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

**III. Report of Officers:**

- **President** Sheri Kantner reported on the activities of the Parent Association since the last meeting. New and old board members have been working together. The Parent Association float in the Homecoming Parade won the "Most Spirited Award." Goody-box stuffing in the Fall was successful. The attendees at the UNT Parent Association Spring Social got to listen to the basketball coach's pre-game speech before a real nailbiter of a game. And this morning's Spring goody-box stuffing took less than an hour. There are vacancies on the Board, as Wendy Lay resigned as Vice President. The Board recommends that Treasurer Sharon Wainscott be appointed as Vice President (and Orientation Chair). Historian Teresa Tavares' is resigning due to her daughter's graduation. The Board seeks nominees to fill out the terms as Treasurer and Historian.
- **President-Elect** Tony Hill: No report
- **Vice President:** [position currently vacant]
- **Secretary** Mark Grayson brought up the legislative issue of "Tuition Revenue-backed Bonds," the main vehicle for state higher education facilities to borrow to make capital improvements. None has been approved by the Texas Legislature since 2007, and schools like UNT would be well-served by borrowing now when interest rates are historically low. Grayson urged members to mention this issue if they run across candidates for office during this election year.
- **Historian** Teresa Tavares Facebook page membership has risen from 99 to 435.
- **Parliamentarian** Stephen Humenesky: No report
- **Past President** Elizabeth Cheney applauded the Board's efforts.
- **Treasurer** Sharon Wainscott deferred the details of the Treasurer's report to Catherine Olivarez, Coordinator of Parents' Programs, who provided details of the UNT Parent Association Account 2013–2014. Fund balance on 1 September 2013 was \$25,658.46, and additional revenue from September through April added to that amount such that \$36,983.46 was available. Of that amount, \$36,968.43 has been earmarked for expenses,

including transfers to the endowment scholarship account, leaving a balance of \$15.03. Membership and merchandise will hit during the Summer. Catherine Olivarez pointed out that nearly all of the Parent Association's funds usually come in during the summer, with membership and merchandise sales during Orientation and the start of the school year. Membership has increased during the last nine months, and with the membership form online, it is expected to grow further. Discussion followed and a copy of the UNT Parents Association account 2013–2014 is attached to the minutes.

#### **IV. University Report**

President Sheri Kantner asked Catherine Olivarez to present the University Report. UNT is embarking upon a guaranteed tuition plan, "Eagle Express," to satisfy a legislative mandate. Stephanie Brown provided further details on her return from dropping of goody boxes. Tuition on the "traditional" plan will increase by 3.9% annually. Students who sign up for "Eagle Express" start at a slightly higher rate, but it remains constant without increase. In addition, if an undergraduate on the "Eagle Express" plan completes a bachelor's degree within four years at UNT, they will get a \$3,000 decrease in costs for the last semester from UNT plus a \$1,000 rebate from the state. Current students should check to see if they would be better served by it or by the traditional plan, as they will have only one opportunity to opt in to the plan before the 12<sup>th</sup> class day of Fall 2014.

If any parent finds they are not receiving regular e-mails, contact the office of Orientation and Transition Programs. The office uses a third-party server from Constant Contact, and is not informed about anyone who accidentally clicks "unsubscribe."

#### **V. Old Business**

Parliamentarian Stephen Humenesky introduced proposed changes to the UNT Parent Association Constitution and By-Laws:

- Article IV, Section 2, Scholarship Funds: recommend adding detail on how information about scholarship qualifications will be disseminated, after the current last sentence: "...and shall be guided by the qualifications set forth by the scholarship committee. These qualifications shall be clearly listed and made available to all students and association members via printed and/or posted announcements on any web-based platform approved by the Parents Association Executive Board."

*Motion: Elizabeth Cheney moved to approve this amendment. Tony Hill seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

- Article IV, Section 4. amended to add the following after the current last sentence: "Seniors graduating in December are eligible to receive the full scholarship in the Fall. " This brings the bylaws up-to-date with what has been an informal practice that is even described on the Parent Association website.

*Motion: Melissa Nichols moved to approve this amendment. Lisa Harrell seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

- Article 3, Section 1: amended to include lifetime members as members even after their student is no longer attending UT The first sentence will now read: "Membership shall be unlimited and shall consist of parents and families of students currently enrolled at UNT as well as parents and families of alumni, as provided by lifetime membership."

*Motion: Howard James moved to approve this amendment. Lisa Harrell seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

Parliamentarian Stephen Humenesky introduced proposed changes to the Standard Operating Procedures of the UNT Parent Association.

- Section 6: With the use of Facebook, the need for the Historian to maintain a scrapbook is no longer necessary. Language will now read "The Historian shall keep a history of the UNT Parent Association on a UNT Parents Association web-based site." In addition, reference to displaying the Association yearbook at the annual meeting is removed.

*Motion: David Kantner moved to approve this amendment. Carol Fields seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

- A discussion of Article V, Section 2 concerning eligibility to serve as officers followed, as there was some concern that the language might seem to not include two-year members. After discussion it was decided that two-year members were special cases of "current annual members," so no change was necessary.

## **VI. New Business**

### **Board Vacancies**

Sharon Wainscott, formerly Treasurer, has been appointed by the Board via a unanimous electronic vote as Vice President to complete the term for Wendy Lay until Family Weekend 2014, who resigned. The membership was invited to confirm this appointment. President Sheri Kantner read the job description from the "Standard Operating Procedures."

*Motion: Stephen Humenesky moved to approve Sharon Wainscott's appointment as Vice President. Derek Newman seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

President Sheri Kantner read the job description for the Treasurer from the "Standard Operating Procedures." Jaki Frost volunteered to serve for the remainder of Sharon Wainscott's term.

*Motion: Howard James moved to approve Jaki Frost as the Treasurer. Teri McCarthy seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

President Sheri Kantner read the job description for the Historian from the "Standard Operating Procedures." Shannon Pierce and Cindy Cravey volunteered to serve for the remainder of Teresa Tavares' term.

*Vote: Cindy Cravey was elected by the membership to fill Teresa Tavares' partial term, until Family Weekend in Fall of 2014.*

### **Parent Orientation Volunteer Opportunities:**

Vice President Sharon Wainscott encouraged people to sign up to volunteer to staff the Parent Association table for orientation programs—selling t-shirts, encouraging memberships and such. Housing and food is available for several sessions. Evaluations consistently show that the presence of other parents and the Parent Association matters greatly to new parents.

### **Merchandise**

Executive Board will be making decisions about whether to increase prices for merchandise, given the increase in costs for material, storage, shipping, etc. The Executive Board will also consider whether to offer hoodies. After orientation, all merchandise will be inventoried with an eye to ordering the strongest-selling designs.

### **Membership Renewal Incentive**

In order to encourage renewals of memberships, it was proposed that of the 51 draw scholarships, 2 would be set aside for those who renew by a set date.

*Motion: Cindy Clement moved to approve the proposal. Elizabeth Cheney seconded. Unanimous approval ensued.*

### **UNT Parent Association Facebook Page: Open vs. Closed**

The Facebook site was created for parents to receive notification and promote parent and students event. The site is the property of UNT, and is managed by UNT. UNT staff monitors it, and helps answer the question. For UNT to continue providing this service, it must be an "open" group. Some have expressed privacy concerns and asked that the site be made a "closed" group.

Discussion included a request that the site's mission statement be posted periodically.

*Motion: Jaki Frost moved that the UNT Parents web-based Facebook site remain an "open" group. Shannon Pierce seconded the motion. Unanimous approval ensued.*

### **UNT Parent Association Membership and Merchandise Online**

Catherine Olivarez and her staff have succeeded in the goal of having this available online. The site has been tested, and a few parents have tried it out. From now on, members who need to renew will be notified by e-mail with a link to the new online form in June. And new members can sign up online. With that said, paper membership forms during orientation can help people get committed on the spur of the moment. (Laptops will not be provided at orientation because there are liability concerns with credit card information on the wifi network.)

### **Draw Scholarships**

The Draw Scholarships were selected, along with alternates, and the awardees will be announced later, once eligibility has been confirmed. Parent Association also funds at least one Academic Scholarship, based on grade-point average. (Depending upon the interest accrued in the Parent Association Scholarship Fund account, more than one Academic Scholarship may be awarded.)

**VII. Dates to Remember:**

Orientation 1	Monday 16 June –Wednesday 18 June
Orientation 2	Sunday 22 June–Tuesday 24 June
Orientation 3	Wednesday 25 June–Friday 27 June
Orientation 4	Monday 7 July–Wednesday 9 July
Orientation 5	Sunday 13 July–Tuesday 15 July
Orientation 6	Wednesday 16 July–Friday 18 July
Orientation 7	Monday 28 July–Wednesday 30 July
Orientation 8	Tuesday 19 August–Wednesday August 20
Send-Off Parties	August 2–August 16 (specifics TBD)
Sunday Fun Day (Move In)	August 17 (First Flight will take place that week)
First Day of Classes	Monday August 25

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.



---

Secretary

Mark Grayson