Members Present: Timothy Boulan, Cassondra Casanova, Dennis Coplen, Meredith Coplen, Shawn Elizondo, Jacqueline Fischer, Dora Garza, Diana Gaona, Valerie Gibbons, Judy Harral, Tiffany Hearne, Patricia Hill, DeeDee Hubenak, Rachel Kirk, Shay Lee, Laura Mansilla, Christopher Palfreyman, Ruby Pollard, Ben Soto, Shelby Stamets, Terry Tatum, Derek Vest, Jennifer Weir, Joseph Miller

Members Absent: Debra Cortinas, Bryant Griffith, Karol Stewart

I. Call to Order
   Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Meredith Coplen.

II. Vice President’s Report - None

III. President’s Report – Meredith Coplen
   - October newsletter should come out early and will include information on Boss’ Day, State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), the October Break-In-the-Day, and campus carry information.
   - The Staff Council website was updated and Meredith Coplen asked everyone to look around through the website and familiarize themselves with it.
   - Earlier Ashley Larrabee from Marketing and Communications talked about the portal which has quick links; however, Meredith Coplen realized that there is no way to get to the Staff Council webpage from there.
   - The Employee Engagement Survey is coming out and not many people take the survey, so if everyone can encourage their constituents to do it, that would be great.
   - With April Basset out, Staff Council needs help collecting the ink cartridges around the campus. Dennis Coplen, Tiffany Hearne, and Catherine Bridges have helped collect the ink cartridges. If your area has an ink cartridge bin and it is full, get with Meredith Coplen.
   - Executive Council meeting are on the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

IV. Treasurer’s Report – Nora Sai
   Accounts as of August 31, 2015
   - Staff Council - $339.35
   - Campus Events - $0
   - Dorothy Yeater Scholarship - $2,756.71
   - Ink Cartridges - $1,363.36
   - SAC Gifts - $0
   Motion to approve was made by Jennifer Weir and seconded by Rachel Kirk; the treasurer’s report was approved by consent.

V. Historian’s Report - Rachel Kirk
   None
VI. Approval of Minutes – Christopher Palfreyman
Motion to Approve was made by Judy Harral; the minutes were approved by consent.

VII. Election of Officers: President Coplen opened the floor for nominations.
Vice President: Tiffany Hearne was nominated by Cassondra Casanova. No opposing nominations were given, Hearne was voted in with a unanimous show of hands.
Secretary: Rachel Kirk was nominated by Tiffany Hearne. No opposing nominations were given, Kirk was voted in with a unanimous show of hands.
Treasurer: Ruby Pollard was nominated by Dora Garza. No opposing nominations were given, Pollard was voted in with a unanimous show of hands.
Parliamentarian: Cassondra Casanova was nominated by Shawn Elizondo. No opposing nominations were given, Casanova was voted in with a unanimous show of hands.
Historian: Shawn Elizondo was nominated by Rachel Kirk. No opposing nominations were given, Elizondo was voted in with a unanimous show of hands.

VIII. Speaker-Terry Tatum: Campus Carry Task Force and Town Hall
- Two bills were passed by Texas legislature. The first bill, open carry, allows people with permits to have a weapon on them in plain sight. The second bill, campus carry, allows people with permits to carry concealed hand guns on campus. People with permits need to be 21 years or older and have to have a background check, training, and a shooting proficiency test. This bill goes into effect on August 1, 2016. If a person with a campus carry permit reveals their weapon, the penalty can get jail time along with revocation of their license and perhaps academic disciplinary actions. The Texas legislature will allow universities to come up with areas that hand guns cannot be permitted at all and proper signage will be required. If the University tries to do a blanket ban on the guns by prohibiting them in too many places, the Texas Legislature will not allow them to choose which areas handguns are prohibited. For example the Counseling Center and Financial Aid where high tensions are present may be an area to prohibit weapons, but to ban them from all classrooms would be excessive. Early Childhood Development Center may have some more leeway since the handguns cannot be around K-12 students. Offsite campuses are bound by the same rules as the main campus such as the Art Center, Hamlin Pharmacy, and the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center. The campus apartments are contracted through other companies, such as Camden, and they do not have to follow the state legislature as well as any private higher education institution. The President of the University has asked for a task force to be formed which will have one member of Staff Council, Dennis Coplen, and one member of Faculty Senate. The recommendations need to be completed by December 1, 2015 to leave time to make tweaks and those recommendations need to be submitted to the Board of Regents by February 1, 2016.
- There was decided to be an open forum that Staff Council will host and the morning of October 15th was chosen.

IX. Committee Reports
- Benefits and Employee Development – Judy Harral
  - No report
- Bylaws and Constitution – Rachel Kirk
Meredith Coplen said that the Constitutional amendments were passed and the website has the new constitution.

- **Nominations and Elections – Dennis Coplen**
  - No report
- **University Relations – Christopher Palfreyman**
  - Met on Monday. Break in the Day will happen during the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) event. It will be tentatively on October 28th either 11:30 a.m. -2:00p.m. or 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. in the CI Courtyard. The rain out location will tentatively be the Dugan Wellness Gym. It will be a Halloween Fall theme with a menu similar to last year’s. The T-shirts will be a Halloween theme. We need volunteers to help find small pumpkins for pumpkin bowling and Bales of Hay. Jacqueline Fischer agreed to help with taking pictures. It was thought that if the time is during lunch and if it is opened to more people, more food may be needed.
  - The Kudos gifts should come in soon and will be clocks.

**X. Adhoc Committees**

- **Staff Annual Luncheon-Shawn Elizondo**
  - No report
- **Dorothy Yeater – Meredith Coplen**
  - Even though Coplen is President, she wanted to help out since Boss’ Day was so close. Last year stylus pens were given for Boss’ Day, and this year they will be a set of 2 stone coasters. Please contact Meredith Coplen to order any.
  - Dorothy Yeater is a scholarship and last year there were 5 recipients that received $125 each. The scholarships are given in the semesters of Fall, Spring, Summer I, and Summer II. It is funded by Boss’ Day, Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day, Staff Annual Luncheon, and if any one donates to the Dorothy Yeater account during Go Blue Give Green campaign.
- **Employee Excellence-Tiffany Hearne**
  - Met over a week ago. Proposing to combine the event with Break-In-the –Day. There will be a silent auction with big ticket items and raffle tickets will be $2 for 5 or $3 for 10. The jail house is free to setup and it brings in funds. The next meeting is on Friday and it needs to be decided who the funds are going to. This year the event will focus on more of electronic forms rather than paper forms, but there will be paper forms still available.

**XI. University Committee Report**

- **Calendar Committee –Meredith Coplen**
  - No report
- **Committees on Committees – Shay Lee**
  - No report
- **Community Outreach – Joseph Miller**
  - No report
- **Environmental Health & Safety Council – Shelby Stamets**
  - Missed first meeting because of conflict with Recreational Sports Meeting
- **Expressive Committee – Patricia Hill**
Meeting focused on allowing students the freedom to express themselves and requested that faculty/staff do not antagonize students when expressing themselves

- Faculty Senate – Tiffany Hearne
  - Coplen reported that Dr. Quintanilla gave her state of the division of Academic Affairs. The faculty were very open and had concerns over budget.

- I-Adapt-Jennifer Weir
  - Biggest event was last Monday which was a Party House. Coasters were given out that could tell if a drink had a date rape drug in it or not. Police did mock arrests. 283 students attended.
  - October 19-22 is the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness week and every day that week will be an activity for drug and alcohol prevention.

- Inclusive Excellence – Ben Soto
  - No Report

- International Education Council-Rachel Kirk
  - No report

- Strategic Planning and Continuous Improvement Council -
  - No report

- Student Success and Retention Committee – Jaqueline Fischer
  - No report

- Parking and Transportation Committee – Dennis Coplen
  - No report

- University Center & Student Activities Advisory Council – Valerie Gibbons
  - No report

- Veteran’s Affairs Committee – Timothy Boulan
  - No report

- Recreational Sports- Judy Harral
  - No report

XII. New Business- Sara Lopez

- None

XIII. Good of the Order

- Karol Stewart discussed upcoming Art Museum Events.
  - Ward Island 12 will continue to show for the next few weeks
  - September 10, 2015: 10 X 10 Event: 10 area artists present 10 slides each of “what inspires them”. Free event. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
  - September 18, 2015: Chicanitas: Small paintings by Cheech Marin opens
  - September 22, 2015: Cheech Marin will lead an hour and a half gallery walk for area art students.
  - For more information on these events, please see the Art Museum of South Texas webpage (http://www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org/)

- Sara Lopez submitted her resignation as past president due to family needs and increased workloads.

- Kudos
  - Maria Fonseca-College of Graduate Studies
o Gracie Canales-Accounting
o Jenny Quick-Research and Commercialization
o Ashley Dyckman-Information Technology
o Juliette Burks-Budget

XIV. Meeting Adjournment
There being no further business, Dennis Coplen motioned and Valerie Gibbons seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM