

Executive Council

October 23, 2023

9:00 am

University Updates: Pablo Arenaz

Faculty observations: Dr. Arenaz reminded deans that student evaluations should not be the only thing used to evaluate teaching effectiveness. Faculty should be observed at least once per semester, and these observations are part of the teaching portfolio.

QEP: Advising and experiential learning are on the table. We need to make a choice pretty quickly. SACS teams should also be working to complete their reports.

Mission Statement: Looking at some of the SACS requirements, Dr. Arenaz felt the mission statement needed to be tweaked. The new version will go to the Board for approval in February.

Student evaluations: SGA will be asked to help increase response rates. In general, we have poor response rates. Some classes have zero responses. Dr. Arenaz stated that student evaluations are required. When we had in class evaluations, we had higher response rates; however, there are issues with that (getting results back in a timely manner, cost, etc). There is a concern about how to evaluate faculty when response rates are so low. Dr. Arenaz reiterated that teaching effectiveness should not rely solely on student evaluations.

First-year retention: This year is our lowest first-year retention rate in many years. Questions: Are more students transferring? Are other things going on? It was suggested that some students may have low reading levels, making it difficult to be successful in their courses. In addition, many students are coming with dual credit courses, so they do not have to take UNIV. Fall 2022 students spent their junior year online. When they returned for their senior year, high school looked different. Did they come back to an easier senior year? There may also be some issues with rigor in high school courses. Dr. Arenaz mentioned HB 5. This bill allows students to take a course in high school that will exempt them from taking the TSI. They will be considered college ready without taking the TSI as long as they pass this course. We also must look at fall to spring retention. Dr. Ramirez presented research that shows the HB 5 students have high DFW rates at midterm (fall 23). In the last couple of years, the state has been incentivizing high schools to put students in this college prep course. This may account for the rise in issues we are seeing with HB 5 students.

OIT: Miguel Munoa

BB: BB will convert to BB Ultra this summer for all faculty. Faculty may begin using Ultra in the spring if they choose. Ultra training will be available during Learning Technologies Week 10/30-11/3. Elearning is working to migrate content for QM Master Courses. Revised and new QM courses will now be designed with BB Ultra. When courses are due for QM recertification, this will also be done with BB Ultra. Elearning will offer an online bootcamp for adjuncts.

TAMIU Wifi Roadmap: Currently, we have 602 access points. In July 2023, legacy access points were replaced. Upgrades filled in known coverage gaps. Action plan for future: Verify that what we have is working, and if not, will work to fill in additional gaps.

Enrollment Management: Juan Garcia

Project MALES: Conversations about reframing this program due to SB 17.

Many schools are requesting TAMIU visits.

November 11: Fall Preview Day

Fall 2024: 1K students accepted already.

Laredo University night will be on campus November 7. Recruiters from different schools will be represented.

Registration opens on Monday (10/30).

Athletics: Griz Zimmerman

Teams are doing well.

Maroon Madness was a success-about 800 people

Faculty Senate: Hayley Kazen

Senate requests that student evaluations are not disproportionately weighted in PPEs (given the low response rate)

Staff Senate: Daniel Berndt

Ongoing Halloween [CandyGram fundraiser](#)

Holiday Gala-December 2

SGA

Make a Difference-Over 500 volunteers at Slaughter Park

Student Technology Advisory Committee-Discussed internet issues; received feedback on how to change surveys to capture more useful information.

Library Advisory Committee-Discussed how improve library websites, scheduling of study rooms

Student evaluations-students tend to complete them when they have a positive experience. Students would also like more transparency about what happens after submission (is their voice being heard; who sees the evaluations).

Rosalinda Garcia:

Allowing for early registration for parents and legal guardians of children under 18. These students must self-identify by Wednesday. Ms. Garcia also asked that the committee members to pass along this information to students.

COVID vaccine clinic for uninsured students on November 1 from 10:00-1230 in STC.

TELAS-online mental health platform forthcoming. More information as it becomes available.