



STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
2 p.m. via WebEx

Attendees:

Adan Sanchez
Aleen Gutierrez
Alejandra Saucedo
Alejandro Rocha
Alice Arce
Amber Martinez
Amy E. Rodriguez
Ana Gonzalez (Business Office)
Ana K Manrique
Ana M Gonzalez (OIT)
Andrea Beattie
Andria Hernandez
Anissa Aguilar
Anna Garza
Arianna V. Perez
Armandina
Arturo San Martin
Athena Cortez
Azeneth Vazquez
Becky Litman
Blanca E. Ramos
Carmen Aquino
Celinda Sarabia
Christa Elizondo
Christina Y. Peralta
Cristina Flores-Westerman
Cynthia Martinez
Daniela M. Ortiz
Daniela Maldonado
David Pina
Denisse Garza
Elaine Almanza-Ortega

Elizabeth Rodriguez
Elsa Real
Enrique Botello
Erika Cantu
Federico Juarez IV
Georgina Zamudio
Gladys Perez
Grazia Barrera
Heather Benavides
Jacqueline Caballero
Jessica Acosta Lopez
Jessica Perez
Jessica Tamez
Jesus A. Huerta
Jonathan Serna
Jose Arreola
Jose Brosig
Jose Cardenas Jr.
Jose Rogelio Garcia
Josefina Molina
Joselyn Ortegon
Joshua Gonzalez
Julio Medina
Julio Reyes Jr.
Kathy A Casares
Klarissa Tamez
Krista Quintanilla
Kristina Valenciano
Lyanne Hinojosa
Madeline Luna
Madison Guerra
Margarett Gonzalez
Maria D. Mancha
Maria Elena Hernandez

Maria I. Salazar
Maria Leticia Cruz
Maria M. Blasco
Mariana Barberena Asiain
Mariana Gonzalez
Martha L. Medina
Melissa J. Dominguez
Melissa Morin
Merari T. Teran
Michelle Espinoza
Mirasol Tabarez
Mirian Granados
Monica
Monica Palacios Robledo
Paola Ortega
Perla Echeverria
Rebecca S. Delgado
Rene Salinas
Rocio Garcia
Rocio M. Garcia Gurrola
Rolando Tijerina
Rosabel Ramos
Rosangela Calderon
Ruben Mendez
San Juanita Vela
Sonia Vela
Stephanie N. Hernandez
Taryn Shehab
Teodoro G. Garcia, Jr.
Vanessa F. Martinez
Virginia Lopez
Yelitza Howard
Yesika Barajas

Executive Board: Alejandra Eligio, Amy Cortina, Ana M Vargas, Cihltalli Perez, Daniel Berndt, Jessica Trevino, Patsy Lopez, Vanessa Almaraz

- **Welcome:** Staff Senate President Cihltalli Perez calls meeting order at 2:00 p.m.

- **Review of July 2022 Meeting Minutes**
No changes to minutes. Approvals:
 - 1st Motion – Amy Cortina
 - 2nd Motion – Jessica Tamez

- **Treasurer’s Report: \$4,368.29 (1.15%↑)**
 - Cihltalli added that this money goes toward Gala and other annual engagement expenditures.

- **Staff Senate News**
 - **Response to Suggestion Box Inquiry**
 - **Parking Lot Improvements:** Question regarding what upgrades were done to the parking lots. Cihltalli detailed a response from Mr. Castillo, AVP Finance & Administration, “Large cracks were addressed during the period. You should be able to see the epoxy in the cracks that were filled. Parking lot striping along with fire lane curb painting will be forthcoming. Some painting will be done during the nighttime.”
 - **Faculty Question:** Question regarding losing faculty members. Cihltalli detailed a response from Dr. Mitchell, Provost, “We do lose a few faculty members each year, and we begin immediately to start searches to replace them. With few exceptions we are successful but searches take time. While we advertise, collect applications, and interview, we hire temporary faculty or adjuncts to tie us over. This year we have lost more than we normally do and for a variety of reasons. Very few of them claim to be unhappy with TAMIU or with living in Laredo but they frequently leave for personal reasons and for career opportunities. Every case is different and this year we’re losing at least three faculty members for the Fall Semester because of health-related reasons unrelated to COVID.
 - Attendees reminded they can submit suggestions or questions to the [Staff Senate Suggestion Box](#).
 - **Beat the Heat Treat Reminder:** Occurring Wednesday, August 10 from 3-4. Attendees reminded to bring their phone for authentication.
 - **Reminder for employees registered as students:**
 - **Employee Application for Waiver of Course Fees:** [Form](#) available on HR website. Tuition due on Friday, August 19. If any employee needs to fill out the graduate or doctorate waiver of fees, please do so immediately.
 - **Educational Release Time Request:** Allows for three hours per week for courses offered during regular working hours. Please note online courses do not qualify for this release time. [Form](#) available online.
 - **Tuition & Fee Payments for Employees Pursuing Doctorates:** [Available](#) since Spring Semester. SAP and other benefits information available to review.
 - **Save the Date: Holiday GALA:** Saturday, December 3, 2022. More information forthcoming.

- **TAMIU News**
 - **Important Dates:**
 - Tuesday, August 16: [Staff Jive @5](#)
 - Wednesday, August 17: Faculty & Staff Assembly
 - Saturday, August 20: Welcome Day
 - Monday, August 22: First Class Day
 - **Fall Semester Safety Refresher:** Reminders on emergency evacuation, assembly area locations, DustyALRT, and other quick tips provided by Daniel Berndt, [Environmental Health and Safety](#).
 - **Dusty's Food Pantry August List:** Seeking donations to fight food insecurity among our students. Individuals can drop off items in STC 226.
 - **Future Dustdevil Sports Camp:** Save the Date – September 5, 2022, 8:00am-5:00pm. The Dustdevil club is hosting a day camp for children of TAMIU Faculty and Staff (K-8) with schools closed for Labor Day. Madeline Luna noted an announcement in the *Insider* with a registration link will be forthcoming. Also, the camp will be 100% free and is capped at 40 individuals.
 - **COVID-19 Updates:**
 - Testing:
 - Rapid testing available for TAMIU community
 - Curative testing available for all individuals
 - Vaccines – no longer available on campus
- **2021-2022 Event Recap**
 - Highlights of fun events throughout the year. Cihtlalli also added that Staff Senate members are regularly involved with other committees including:
 - Executive Council
 - Budget Advisory Committee
 - Web Advisory Committee
 - University Parking Citation Appeals
 - Student Fee Advisory Committee
 - Representation in ad-hoc committees:
 - Chancellor's Summit on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - The SACS Steering Committee
 - Maroon Madness Planning Committee
 - Make a Difference Day
 - Received >10 questions to suggestion box. Answers provided as available, and other suggestions passed to upper administration as applicable. Members regularly function behind the scenes and consider ways to best represent staff.
 - Events:
 - Book Scholarship Recipients
 - Four fundraisers
 - Slice of Thanks
 - Holiday Gala
 - Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Tag
 - Employee Appreciation Events: Breakfast Taco & Loteria
 - Earth Day Celebration

- >50 Door prize winners. Many items donated by board members or other campus departments/staff.
 - Dog Days of Summer Photo Contest
 - Beat the Heat Summer Treat
- **2022-2023 Staff Senate Induction Ceremony**
 - **Board Vacancy:** Board followed precedence of vacancy between election and swear-in; voted to appoint Vanessa Almaraz to Vice President of Fundraising.
 - Current Parliamentarian swore-in Daniel Berndt as the new Parliamentarian. Daniel Berndt then swore in the remaining positions:
 - President – Jessica Treviño
 - President-elect – Enrique Botello
 - Vice President: Marketing – Vanessa Almaraz
 - Vice President: Fundraising – Kristina Valenciano
 - Treasurer – Patsy Lopez
 - Secretary – Jessica Tamez
- **Open Floor**
 - Ana Vargas introduced a new staff member, Joshua Gonzalez, who will assist with maintaining the TAMU website and facilitating trainings.
 - Deadline to register for Staff Jive @5 was Tuesday, August 8.
 - Madeline Luna announced the first home game for Men’s and Women’s Soccer occurring on Wednesday, August 25. Individuals interested in learning more about Athletics activities occurring at each game can contact her to be added to their promotional emails.
 - Kristina Valenciano thanked everyone for participating in the Wellness Olympics. She encourages everyone to stay active despite this being the final week of the challenge and requested feedback regarding the date/time of Meditation Monday to see if Mondays still work best.
 - Prior to adjournment, a question was asked in the chat regarding when parking permits will be available. Andria Hernandez clarified a message will be published soon with the date these permits will be for sale and added that all current year long permits are good until the end of the month.
- **Door Prize Winners:**
 - Klarissa Tamez
 - Jose Rogelio Garcia
 - Rene Salinas
 - Anissa Aguilar
 - Blanca E. Ramos
- **Motion to adjourn**
Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.
 - 1st motion – Maria Leticia Cruz
 - 2nd motion – Maria M. Blasco

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022