



Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 12, 2023
2 pm | Teams

Attendees: Acosta Lopez Jessica A; Aguilar, Anissa M; Almaraz, Vanessa L; Angeles, Jhoanna; Barberena Asiain, Mariana; Barrera, Aquiles; Barrientos, Erick; Begwin, Michelle A.; Beltran, Claudia C.; Benavides, Heather, Benero-Roman, Yarisely; Berlanga, Janessa J.; Berndt, Daniel; Blasco, Maria M; Botello, Enrique E.; Calderon, Cristina M; Campos, Patricia S.; Canales, Michelle S.; Cantu, Erika; Cardenas Jr., Jose G.; Carey, Ashley K; Casares, Kathy A; Castillo, Alexander; Ceballos, Marcos A; Cedillo, Brittany L.; Cisneros, Elsa A.; Cortez, Athena V.; Cortez, Lorissa M; Covington, Rhonda V; Crooks, Derrick W.; De La Garza, Maria D.; De Leon, Isabel S.; Dominguez, Javier G; Dominguez, Melissa J.; Echeverria, Perla A; Elizalde, Anna K; Elizondo, Christa L.; Esparza, Marta E; Flores, Samuel; Flores, Victoria; Flores-Westerman, Maria C.; Gallegos, Cesar; Garcia Gurrola, Rocio M.; Garcia III, Heberto; Garcia, Rocio; Garcia, Rosalinda; Garza, Denisse; Garza, Jessica; Garza, Sofia A; Giron, Ivan; Gonzalez, Ana; Gonzalez, Jessica M.; Gonzalez, Maria G; Granado, Elizabeth D; Green, Elizabeth C.; Gutierrez, Aleen M; Gutierrez, Graciela; Hernandez, Andria M; Hernandez, Bernardo; Hernandez, Gloria P; Hernandez, Mayra G.; Herrera, Nicolas D.; Hinojosa, Lyanne; Kennion, Vanessa; Leal, Karla; Litman, Rebeca R; Lopez, Patricia G; Lopez, Virginia A.; Lugo, Sandy M; Maldonado, Daniela; Maldonado, Ofelia Y; Mancha, Maria D; Manrique, Monica A; Martinez, Alma Y.; Martinez, Claudia E.; Martinez, Cynthia; Martinez, Elizabeth; Martinez, Gabriela; Martinez, Jr., Juan; Martinez, Priscilla A; Medrano, Erika; Mendez, Ruben; Molina, Josefina; Muzquiz, Yamel Y; Nicolas; Olivarez, Melissa D.; Olivas, Miguel S; Ordonez, Samuel; Ortiz, Daniela M.; Ortiz, Victoria G.; Palacios Robledo, Monica; Palacios, Amy; Pedraza, Karla; Pena, Julian D.; Pena, Maria J; Perales, Nydia Y.; Perez, Erica E.; Perez, Gladys D; Perez, Jessica; Perez, Juan G.; Poblano de Garcia, Zaira; Preciado, Leonela; Quintanilla, Krista S.; Ramos, Armandina; Ramos, Nancy; Real, Elsa; Rivera, Damaris; Rodriguez, Amelia V; Rodriguez, Amy E.; Rodriguez, Lorena; Salazar, Kelly I.; Salazar, Maria I.; San Miguel, Brenda L; Sanchez, Gloria Z.; Saucedo, Alejandra; Saucedo, Diana M; Soto, Ivette J.; Soto, Samantha C.; Soulas, Melissa; Tamez, Jessica; Tamez, Klarissa E; Tovar, Julio C; Trevino, Tano; Valenzuela, David H; Vallarta, Carlos A; Vallarta, Sara A; Vela, San Juanita; Verastigui, Jessica L.; Zamudio, Georgina.

Executive Board: Daniel Berndt, Mayra Hernandez, Enrique Botello, Consuelo L. Guzman, Martha L. Medina, Yesika Barajas, Aleen Gutierrez and Marissa Arce

- **Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 14:00 by Staff Senate President Daniel Berndt
- **Review of August 2023 Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**
 - Motions to approve- 1st Mayra Hernandez and 2Nd Enrique Botello
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Current balance is \$ 3308.00, which will combined with our new budget of \$ 10,000.00
- **2023 -2024 Staff Senate Board Formal Introduction given by Daniel Berndt.** New Staff Senate website is updated with photos and details of our new board.
- **Speaker / Presentation**
 - US 59 Loop construction – Update given by Daniel Berndt on behalf of Trevor Liddle.

Initial construction planning has begun. Telephone poles are already being relocated. TAMIU is actively working with Tx DOT. Construction is expected to begin in early Spring 2024. Questions and concerns by attendees regarding closure to Casa Verde Rd possible closure during expansion. More detailed information to come as it is made available.
 - *I Love Laredo* – Big Lou (Speaker did not present)
- **Staff Senate News**
 - Early Dismissal on Fridays. Possibility of early dismissal on Fridays at noon was discussed. This would mean longer days Monday through Thursday. Feedback received was that this would not work in some departments. Students will be negatively impacted since there are now classes on Fridays all day. What may be a possibility is a flexible / staggered scheduling for staff, which may help alleviate some traffic that may be caused once Loop 20 construction begins. Nothing is official yet and as of now no early release planned for Fridays either.
 - Priscilla Cadena – The Office of Community Engagement. Priscilla shared valuable information regarding her department.
 - Reminder that the Office of Community Engagement and Prof Center's purpose is to enrich scholarship and enhance curriculum for all at the university, continue partnerships between TAMIU and the community and provide a central archive for a community service hours.
 - Advised us of the new platform being utilized by the department called TAMIU Presence, which can be used to look at new events and stay in the know. TAMIU Trailblazers is no longer being used.
<https://tamiu.presence.io>

- PVSA Presidential Volunteer Service Award November 22 through November 23 applications will soon be accepted.
- Make a Difference Day 2023- October 21, 2023. In conjunction with Keep Laredo Beautiful and the City of Laredo, this year's event will be held at Slaughter Park located at 202 N Stone Ave. There is a volunteer QR code on website and 40 community service hours will be given. Volunteers will be cleaning up and beautifying the park using environment friendly paints and glass. Last year's event was held at North Central Park. <https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/madandtbe.shtml>
- Staff Senate Meet and Greet will be held on Wednesday September 20th 2023 from 12 – 1pm in WHTC Room 111. This is an opportunity to meet and connect with the new 2023 – 2024 Academic Year Staff Senate Officers and voice any concerns you may have or any potential topics you would like discussed in the future. Attendees are asked to bring their own lunch as light refreshments will be served. <https://forms.office.com/r/AxQ6R1EcRe>
- 2023 Holiday Gala Planning Committee sign up link provided. <https://forms.office.com/r/uy6ZFXLPhk>. Daniel encouraged everyone interested in signing up for this committee to do quickly so that planning for our annual Gala can begin as soon as possible.
- Monthly Meeting Date and Time Survey https://tamtu.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79uFIQurO5n1RvU
Daniel reminded us of the survey made available to see if the current date and time of our Staff Senate monthly meetings of Tuesdays at 2pm is still good for the majority.
- Book Scholarship and Master's Degree Funding. Reminder that there are funds available. \$250 available each for Fall and Spring semesters to qualifying TAMTU staff members who are pursuing continuing education. Please follow link to see if you meet the qualifications as well as application deadlines. <https://www.tamtu.edu/staffsenate/index.shtml> . There is also funding for staff pursuing their Master's Degree. Please follow the link provided below to read further on the Standard Administrative Procedure to apply for funding assistance as well as contact points for your application and deadlines. <https://www.tamtu.edu/compliance/documents/Rules%20and%20SAPs/31.99.01.10.03tuitionandfeepaymentsforemployeespursuingmastersdegrees.pdf>. There is also funding available for if staff are pursuing their PhD. <https://www.tamtu.edu/compliance/documents/Rules%20and%20SAPs/31.99.01.10.02tuitionandfeepaymentsforemployeespursuingdoctorates.pdf>.
Mayra Hernandez also shared link for more information on Employee Educational Release <https://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/ohr/documents/educational-time-request.pdf>

and the Employee Application for Waiver of Tuition and Fees

<https://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/ohr/employee-waiver---course-fees---updated-10102022.pdf>

- Daniel encouraged all staff to remember to ask important questions and to let Staff Senate know what is on their mind so that we can look into it. Staff can use the website <https://www.tamtu.edu/staffsenate/index.shtml> and the suggestion box or send a direct email to staff.senate@tamtu.edu to let us know how Staff Senate can better serve you.

- **TAMTU News**

- 12th class day is upon us. 9/12/2023
- Coffeehouse Wednesday will take place on 9/20/2023 at TAMTU Career Service careerservices@tamtu.edu
- Alzheimer's Conference will be held on 9/21/2023 and the Alzheimer's Walk will take place on 11/04/2023.
<https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2023/TXSanAntonioandSouthTexas?pg=entry&frid=16984>
- Maroon Madness begins 10/17/2023
- TAMTU El Grito will take place 9/14/2023 from 5pm to 8pm at ZSC Green and it is open to the public. For more info call SOLE at 956-326-2280 or email sole@tamtu.edu.
- TAMTU Office of Environmental Health and Safety upcoming workshops for Fall 2023 will be held in person, but will be recorded for later review and will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Topics include *Sheltering in Place* and *Electrical Safety on Campus* among others.
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/EnvironmentalHealthSafety@dustytamtu.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
<https://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/safety/index.shtml>
- TAMTU Departments of Athletics <https://godustdevils.com/calendar>
- Rec Sports TAMTU <https://www.tamtu.edu/recsports/events.shtml>
- COVID 19 Updates. Test kits are still free and available at UPD and at the Physical Plant. Daniel stated that hygiene stations will continue to remain available as well.
- TAMTU Fall Semester Safety Refresher- AEDS, Exit Signs Evacuation Assembly Areas, EAP and UPD emergency # is 2911. Fire Drill is expected soon - follow appropriate evacuation routes.

- **Open Floor**

- Nicolas Pohlenz shared the link for the upcoming Viva TAMTU Fiesta 23-23 private event for active donors which will take place 10/11/2023. He also

provided an update of currently 270 donors with a total of \$ 37,000.00 raised. And encouraged all staff to go to their website for more information and to view the current leaderboard

https://alumni.tamtu.edu/s/1930/bp20/interior.aspx?sid=1930&gid=2&pgid=877&content_id=1507

- Josefina Molina shared that the Killam Library will be celebrating Constitution Week the week of Sept 17th. During this event you can swing by the KL to get a free pocket constitution at the circulation desk.
<https://www.tamtu.edu/library/index.shtml>
- Erica Perez asked what is the proper procedure if staff or students encounter an injured wild animal on campus. – Call UPD at 2911 24/7 for assistance and do not approach animal.
- SBDC staff shared a link reminding staff that they have a few upcoming events such as *Reach Customers Online 9/20/2023* and *Leasing 101: Your Journey to Brick and Mortar* among others. <https://www.tamtu.edu/sbdc/>
- TAMTU Office of Global Initiatives reminded us that they offer ongoing ESL classes. Please visit their website <https://www.tamtu.edu/binationalcenter/> or visit their office in person in LBV 201 or call ext 2136 for more info.

- **Door Prizes**

- Melissa Soulas
- Ashley Carey
- Karla Pedraza
- Armandina Ramos

- **Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 15:01 pm**

- 1st motion Marissa Arce
- 2nd motion Mayra Hernandez