



STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

2 p.m. via WebEx

Attendees:

Adan Sanchez	Denise Luna	Maria Julia Peña
Adrianna V. Perez	Denisse Garza	Maria M. Blasco
Aleen Gutierrez	Elaine Almanza-Ortega	Mariana Barberena Asiain
Alejandra Covarrubias	Elena M. Martinez	Mariana Gonzalez
Alejandra Saucedo	Elizabeth	Marissa D. Arce
Alice Arce	Elizabeth Green	Martha L Medina
Amber M. Martinez	Elizabeth Smith	Marycarmen Salinas
Amy Palacios	Elsa A. Cisneros	Melissa Soulas
Amy Rodriguez	Elsa Real	Merari Teran
Ana Gonzalez	Federico Juarez IV	Michelle Begwin
Ana Granados	Franz Gordillo	Michelle Espinoza
Ana K. Manrique	Gabriela Chapa	Miguel Olivas
Ana Vargas	Georgina Zamudio	Mirian Granados
Andrea D. Beattie	Gladys Perez	Monica Molina
Anissa M Aguilar	Gloria Hernandez	Monica Palacios Robledo
Anna Buentello	Gloria Sifuentes	Mozelle A. Aparicio
Anna Garza	Gloria Z. Sanchez	Pablo Arenaz
Aquiles Barrera	Grezia Barrera	Patricia Ornelas
Araceli Sandoval	Guillermo F. Gonzalez	Rebecca S. Delgado
Armandina Ramos	Ithiel Benavides	Rene Salinas
Ashley K. Carey	Ivan Giron	Ricardo Ramirez
Athena Cortez	Ivana Zamora	Nancy Ramos
Azeneth Vazquez	Ivette Soto	Rocio Garcia
Becky Litman	Jessica A. Acosta Lopez	Rocio M. Garcia Gurrola
Bernardo Hernandez	Jhoanna Angeles	Rosanne Palacios
Blanca Ramos	Josefina Molina	Rosie Dickerson
Cecilia Bustamante	Joshua Gonzalez	Ruben Mendez
Celina M. Calderon	Joseph Cardenas	Samuel Flores
Celinda Sarabia	Juan A. Hernandez Jr.	Scheiby Gonzalez-Fisher
Cesar Ramirez	Julio Medina	Selina Gonzalez
Christa Elizondo	Julio Tovar	Shama Ali
Christina Westerman	Kathy A. Casares	Sofia C. Maldonado

Christina Y. Peralta
Christine Rojas
Claudia C. Beltran
Claudia E. Martinez
Cordelia Perez
Cynthia Martinez
Daniel O. Salazar
Daniela Maldonado
Daniela Ortiz

Kimberly Cruz
Klarissa Tamez
Krista Quintanilla
Laura M. Elizondo
Linda V. Ortega
Lyanne Hinojosa
Maria D. De La Garza
Maria Elena Hernandez
Maria I. Salazar

Sonia
Sophia Gutierrez
Susan M. Foster
Tano Treviño
Taryn Shehab
Tracie Vogel
Yelitza Howard
Yesika Barajas
Zoila Franco-Hinojosa

Executive Board: Jessica Treviño (not present), Enrique Botello, Kristina Valenciano, Vanessa Almaraz, Patsy Lopez, Jessica Tamez, Daniel Berndt (not present), Cihltalli G. Perez

- **Welcome:** Staff Senate President-Elect Enrique Botello calls meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
- **Review of August 2022 Meeting Minutes**
Minor changes made to minutes.
Approvals:
 - 1st Motion – Cihltalli Perez
 - 2nd Motion – Ana Vargas
- **Treasurer's Report:** \$4,284
 - Cihltalli added that this money goes toward Gala and other annual engagement expenditures.
- **Speaker/Presentation**
 - **Dr. Arenaz** – Welcome back for the school year. Enrollment close to where we were in 2020. Enrollment is up, but credit hours are down from 2020. This semester is the second largest incoming class we've ever had. As we go into the Legislative Session, this Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 is part of Base Year. Encouraged and reminded staff that are applying or have applied for the Master's Program, that the University's covering the cost of Tuition and Fees and all they need to pay for is books. Not certain about what to expect from the Legislative Session. Members of the House Appropriation Committee mentioned the possibility of freezing tuition for the next 2-4 years. He will be going to Austin at the end of the month to meet with the Legislative Budget Board to present that for college to be more affordable the State needs to invest more money into institutions of higher education. We are not funded by PUF/HUB, but through the Higher Education Fund (HEF). We received \$370 million from HEF.

Questions:

Q: Tuition and Fees for employees pursuing Doctorates: Available since Spring Semester?

A: SAP is available through the HR website, and it needs to be related to your function on campus (related to your job), it's setup by the System. System is billed and pays the other institution.

Q: What are the enrollment goals for the future? Do we plan to increase or maintain our current numbers?

A: We want to reach 10,000 students by 2025, perhaps 2028/2029.

Q: Is it the same for those seeking their first Master's Degree?

A: System is paying tuition and fees to the Institution where the Employee is enrolled.

- **Anna Buentello** – Review Admission requirements, overview on all the programs TAMIU offers, and the tuition waiver for Fall Semester. Offer over 20 programs designed for working professionals: Full-time, part-time, hybrid, full-and sub- terms, and face to face. There are multiple financial assistance options available. Admission requirements: apply at goapplytexas.org; and submit transcripts for all institutions attended (except TAMIU). Programs have difference admission requirements. Visit Grad School page for specific program requirements, tamiu.edu/gradschool. If it has been more than a year, you do have to re-submit your application at the same website. The application fee will be waived. Same procedure regarding transcripts. Re-admission will be based on new catalog policies, program and Graduate School admission requirements, etc. There is a time limitation on coursework. Should your coursework be expired, you will need to repeat your coursework, request a course substitution, and requests a course extension which must be approved by program faculty, department chair, college dean, and graduate school dean. Degrees offered for Master's of Arts are Communication, Counseling Psychology, English, History and Political Thought, Language, Literature, and Translation, and Sociology. Degrees for Master's of Sciences are Biology, Criminal Justice, Mathematics, and Psychology. There is also a Master's of Public Administration and a PhD in Criminal Justice. For ARSSB, there are Master of Business Administration (Criminal Justice, Healthcare Administration, Int'l Banking and Finance, International Business, Int'l Trade and Logistics, and Management. ARSSB also offers Master's of Professional Accountancy, Master of Science in Information Science, PhD in International Business Administration. The College of Nursing offers a Master's of Science degree in Family Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Administration. The COED offers Master's of Arts in Teaching and Master of Science. Master of Science options are Bilingual Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Administration, School Counseling, and Special Education. In order to get the Tuition and Fee Waiver, employee must have been with TAMIU for 12 months prior to starting program, fully admitted to master's program, remain in good standing, and is limited to 6 hours each session (fall, spring, and summer) up to 9 consecutive sessions. The time limit to complete degree is 3 years. The form must be submitted every semester and signed by supervisor, HR, Graduate School, and the Registrar. Tuition waiver applies to 1st master's degree only. It covers prep module courses (MBA), if needed. However, it

doesn't cover undergraduate pre-requisite courses. Books Included are NOT covered.

Employees still qualify for financial assistance, both scholarships and student loans. There will be a Graduate School Open House on Thursday, October 13th from 5:30p – 7:30p at ZSC.

Q: Will this be available for Spring 2023?

A: Yes, it begins in Fall 2022, doesn't mean that it's only eligible for Fall 2022.

Q: If we will be here for a year by Fall 2023, can we apply for the program then, even if we start our Masters in Spring 2023.

A: You can apply in Fall 2023 for Spring 2024.

Q: Do you need to keep re-applying for every semester enrolled?

A: You don't have to re-apply to the program, but you do have to fill out a form every semester.

- **Rosanne Palacios** – Donors around the world want to know if we've "got skin in the game". We have been up to 64% participation in this campaign. The amount is not important, it's the number of people who give. Would like to be above 65% participation. Use the QR code to donate. At the VivaTAMIU party \$5,000 given out to 2 colleges. Within the department, two \$2,500 prizes. If your department reaches 100% participation, you get \$2,500 to the program you choose. Everyone in that department get a \$5 voucher.

Q: VivaTAMIU party?

A: Yes, VivaTAMIU party is October 5th.

Q: If we're already giving, do we need to re-submit anything for our contributions to continue?

A: No, you do not need to re-submit.

- **Staff Senate News**

- **Staff Senate Book Scholarship** – Staff Senate Book Scholarship opens up today and closes on Sunday, October 2nd at midnight. It's good for undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Employee Performance Evaluation** – Don't forget to do your employee evaluations.
- **Response to Suggestion Box Inquiry**
 - **Reserved Parking Concerns:** Killam Library East Parking lot. Signs are being put up and it is now being patrolled by PD. From Chief, "Just a reminder you have to have the parking permit affixed to your windshield, if you don't or if you lose it, you will be ticketed and possibly booted. Also, you can't just park in a designated parking spot please we know who is supposed to park there."
 - **Zaffirini Student Success Center New Advising Offices:** Spoke to Dr. Mitchell, and he said he was aware of the discontent but unfortunately, we don't have enough space to give every advisor private office. They are looking to provide a much more comfortable

seat. It's to promote a smooth transition from University College freshmen advisors and provide assistance to the students.

- **Staff Senate Highlights Email** – Highlights email will begin again in October.

- **TAMIU News**

- **Beat Back Inflation Stipend:** \$500 check will be given out on Thursday, September 15 at WHTC 111 from 10am – 2pm. Full time employees receive \$500, part-time employees receive \$250.

Q: Will we need a TAMIU ID or can we use a State Driver's License?

A: Preferably, it should be a TAMIU ID, but if they don't have one, a Texas Driver's License will be accepted.

Q: Event part-time employees need a TAMIU ID, correct?

A: Yes, they do.

- **Dusty's Diner \$5 Fridays:** It will be for the month of September, from 12pm – 2pm.
- **Vaccines at STC Ballroom:** They will be held on Thursday, October 13th from 11am – 1pm. Health Services will share the email once it's available for everyone to sign up. Health Services is working with HEB, It should be sent out about a week before the Vaccine day.
- **Friday Denim Days:** We can now wear Jeans on Fridays.
- **TAMIUnity Book Club:** There was an announcement about the TAMIUnity Book Club Meeting.
- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Webinar:** There will be a webinar on Wednesday, September 14th at noon.

- **Open Floor**

- Rocio Garcia mentioned that we have a Volleyball Game on Wednesday, September 14th at 6pm and Women's Soccer game at 5pm.
- Jhoanna Angeles asked if there would be assigned tables by last name for Stipend pick up? Yes.
- Ivan Giron reminded everyone wanting to get an employee ID, employee's UID number, and a form of ID (state ID, driver's license, or passport) are required.
- Kristina Valenciano announced that HealthyU there will be Pumpkin painting on October 15th at 9am in the Student Center Patio. Limited spaces are available. Sign up link will be sent towards the end of the month in order to allow for everyone to be able to sign up. You can bring your own pumpkin. One pumpkin will be provided per participant.
- Anonymous asked if there could be consistent UPD presence at the exits at 5pm. They are not present everyday which results in long lines. Chief responded that they are aware and make sure that the exits are covered at 5pm. She has requested that LISD be vigilant because Early College does belong to them. She is also working on getting the key to the light on the loop to improve traffic flow. They are low on afternoon officers, so she asks for us to bear with her.

- Christine Rojas mentioned that we're on the precipice of 40,000 followers on TAMIU's and asked for those that haven't followed our social media.
- Denisse Garza responded to some questions about the Stipend checks. Yes, valid Texas ID will be accepted if employee doesn't have a TAMIU ID. Chief wanted to know option was available for those employees who can't go by on Thursday. Denisse stated that they will work on offering more dates the following week.

- **Door Prize Winners:**
 - Gladys Perez
 - Claudia E. Martinez
 - Anna Garza
 - Susan M. Foster

- **Motion to adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

 - 1st motion – Chief Cordelia Perez
 - 2nd motion – Susan M. Foster

Next Meeting: October 11, 2022