

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2 pm

Teams Attendees:

Executive Board: Daniel Berndt, Mayra Hernandez, Enrique Botello, Clarissa Guerrero, Martha L. Medina, Yesika Barajas, Aleen Gutierrez, and Sarah Madrigales.

I. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 14:00 by Staff Senate President Daniel Berndt.

II. March 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

Motions to approve:

1. 1st motion: Enrique Botello
2. 2nd motion: Lorissa Cortez

III. Treasurer's Report

Previous balance: \$9,758

Donations: \$25

Candy sales: \$409

Water sales at Discover TAMIU: \$231

Remaining balance: \$10,423

Expenses incurred from fundraisers are still pending.

IV. Speaker

- Lake Casa Blanca International State Park
 - Sydney Blackwell from Lake Casa Blanca State Park spoke about the many activities that are available at the park including fishing, boating, kayaking, hiking, biking, camping, night hikes, guided tours, and has a trail about 4 miles long. Summer camps and educational programs in and out of the park are available for children. The park can collaborate with other organizations to create and coordinate events. Upcoming events schedule is updated about once a month and is posted on social media and website. Ms. Blackwell points out that the park is safe and well-maintained by their maintenance dept., park rangers, superintendent, and front desk office. Entrance fees are \$4/person over 13 years old or \$70 for a yearly pass, which allows entry for up to 14 people per vehicle. An attendee asked how construction of the overpass will affect the state park, to which Ms. Blackwell responded that she doesn't have much information on that subject except that the park will be constructing a new entrance. For more information, contact Sydney Blackwell at 956-725-3826.

V. Staff Senate News

- Bylaws Update
 - Still in the works. Will update during next meeting.
- NeighborWorks Laredo – Next Steps
 - Initiative aimed to assist first-time home buyers and existing homeowners with credit counseling and financial education. Extending a survey to open a conversation about programs available and what would interest TAMIU staff that can be offered at a discount or for free.

- Employee Recognition Program – update
 - A new Staff Employee Recognition award is in the works. Winners will receive a \$100 cash prize and a commemorative plaque. Winners will be announced before the end of the month.
- Book Scholarship – Winners
 - Winners of the Book Scholarship are Virginia Lopez, Derrick Crooks, and Edith Garza-Garza.
- Spring “CandyBration” Recap
 - We extend our thanks and gratitude to all who purchased a candy-gram.
- Total Eclipse Watch Party
 - The Total Eclipse Watch Party was a great success. The number of attendees was amazing.
- Summer Camps
 - A variety of summer camps are available at TAMIU including Dusty camps, Junior University Summer Camp, PREP program, and Engineering program.
- University Funding Presentation
 - The Office of Finance and Administration will be providing a University Funding presentation, led by Mr. Juan Castillo and others, in order to maintain transparency. An overview of TAMIU financial information will be shared with attendees. Those interested are encouraged to submit questions anonymously. Please RSVP.
Will take place Monday, April 29, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in room AIC 222.
- Annual Bowl-A-Thon: Save the Date!
 - Will take place at Pla-mor on June 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm. This year’s theme will be the circus. \$50/ team. Opportunities for up to 20 teams. Registration form will be available soon.
- Staff Senate Inbox Suggestions/Comments
 - Suggestions and comments from staff are always encouraged. A suggestion was made since last month’s meeting to discuss discounts and promotions offered to TAMIU staff and faculty. Our Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance has a program called *Blue365* which allows you to receive discounts and rewards on health services and initiatives such as LASIK. *Blue Points* offers points and rewards for making efforts to stay healthy. *Well on Target* is a similar program that offers free items for keeping up with your health. A list of discounts is in the works and will be available on the Staff Senate website. Daniel encourages staff to go onto Staff Senate website and give feedback or suggestions.

VI. TAMIU News

- Athletics Updates
 - Yesika Barajas: Last of home games for baseball and softball. Those who haven’t had a chance to go out and support the teams still have a chance. The Staff Senate’s Parliamentarian, Aleen Gutierrez, will be throwing the first pitch at the baseball game on the 26th.
- Rec Sports E-Sports Team Update
 - Clarissa Guerrero: Sending 4 E-sports teams to division 1 conference. Tune in to tournament on April 13th to support the teams. Teams are doing very well; have won 4

consecutive seasons in a row and have been recognized nationally. Please take the survey to give feedback or suggestions as to what the REC center can do for you.

- Asking for volunteers for Splash Fest on April 24, 2024.
- The Big Event recap
 - Priscilla Cadena: The 15th annual Big Event focused on the West side of Laredo, mainly the Canta Ranas neighborhood. 500+ volunteers comprised of students, alumni, faculty, and staff attended in an effort to beautify the area's parks and homes. *Make a Difference Day* will host a similar event in October for those that are interested in the beautification of Laredo's communities.
- SBDC Workshop Schedule
 - SBDC workshops for April are available for free or at a low cost for those interested in business.
- HealthyU Outdoor Adventure Hike & Sketch, 4/13/2024
 - Offered by REC sports team. Will be free and drawing materials will be provided. Participants will be taught to draw.
- VITA – Last day 4/18/2024
 - Still ongoing until April 18th.
- Trailblazer Legacy Night, 4/24/2024
- University Life Awards, 4/27/2024, 5 pm, STC Ballroom
- EHS Workshops Schedule
 - Miniseries on emergency preparedness changed from Thursday, April 18th to Thursday, April 25th. Will record it for those who cannot make it.

VII. Open Floor

- Daniel reminds us that some of the Staff Senate and others will be joining TAMIU choirs to sing the *Hallelujah* chorus at the recital hall at 7:30 pm tonight.
- Link provided to recycle eclipse glasses.
- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is on April 19th. It is a great opportunity to raise funds for cancer research.
- This year's TED will be on May 17th. The theme will be Generations. For more information, contact HR.
- Mariachi concert on April 20th.
- Bible studies on Mondays.

VIII. Door Prizes

Winners are:

1. Hilda Pat Garcia – Winner of Swag bag
2. Patricia Campos – Winner of Swag bag
3. Alejandra Saucedo – Winner of \$25 Starbucks gift card

IX. Adjournment

Motions to adjourn:

1. 1st motion: Clarissa Guerrero
2. 2nd motion: Marcos Ceballos