



Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 12th, 2023
2pm / Teams

Attendees: Acosta Lopez, Jessica A; Aguilar, Anissa M; Aguilar, Rosa A.; Almaraz, Vanessa L; Al-Nasser, Sanaa; Alvarado, Daniel E.; Angeles, Jhoanna; Angie A. Sifuentes; Arce, Alice; Arce, Marissa D.; Barajas, Yesika; Barberena Asiain, Mariana; Barrera, Aquiles; Barrera, Julie E; Beltran, Claudia C.; Benavides, Heather; Benero-Roman, Yarisely; Berndt, Daniel; Blasco, Maria M; Botello, Denisse; Botello, Enrique E.; Bryand, Sandra G.; Buenrostro, Fernando; Calcaneo, Eva A; Calderon, Cristina M; Canales, Michelle S; Cardenas; Jr., Jose G.; Carey, Ashley K; Casares, Kathy A; Castillo, Alexander; Ceballos, Marcos A; Cedillo, Brittany L.; Cervantes, Jordan A.; Clamont, Ana P; Contreras, Joscelen; Cortez, Lorissa M; Covington, Rhonda V; Crooks, Derrick W; Cruz, Maria Leticia; De La Garza, Maria D; De Leon, Isabel S.; Delgado, Rebecca S.; Dominguez, Adrian; Dominguez, Javier G; Echandy, Laura; Echeverria, Perla A; Elizalde, Anna K; Flores, Aide; Flores, Michelle Y.; Flores-Westerman, Maria C; Foster, M. Susan; Franco Garza, Celeste L; Franco Hinojosa, Zoila; Garcia Gurrola, Rocio M.; Garcia III, Heberto; Garcia, Hilda P.; Garcia, Rocio; Garza Garza, Edith; Garza, Jessica M; Garza, Priscilla M.; Garza, Sofia A; Garza, Valeria L.; Gonzalez, Ana; Gonzalez, Carolina; Gonzalez, Jessica M.; Gonzalez, Selina; Granada, Elizabeth D; Gutierrez, Aleen M; Gutierrez,; Angela J.; Gutierrez, Graciela; Gutierrez, Tiffany A.; Guzman, Consuelo L; Hernandez, Andria M; Hernandez, Bernardo; Hernandez, Gloria P; Hernandez, Maria Elena; Hinojosa, Lyanne; Howard, Yelitza M.; Jimenez De La Fuente, Cecilia A.; Justice, Donah M.; Kennion, Vanessa; Lara, M. Connie; Larumbe, Rogelio D.; Leal, Karla; Litman, Rebeca R; Lopez, Virginia; Mancha, Maria D; Manrique, Ana K; Martinez, Brenda C; Martinez, Claudia E.; Martinez, Cynthia; Martinez, Elena M; Martinez, Gabriela; Martinez, Jr., Alejandro A; Martinez, Vanessa F.; Medina, Julio C; Mendez, Ruben; Mendiola, Cynthia Y.; Mendoza Jr., Oscar; Mireles, Vanessa L.; Molina, Josefina; Olivas, Miguel S; Ordonez, Samuel; Ornelas, Patricia; Ortiz, Daniela; Ortiz, Daniela M.; Oviedo, Cristina; Palacios Robledo, Monica; Pedraza, Karla; Pena, Julian D.; Pena, Maria J; Perez, Cihltalli G; Perez, Cordelia G; Perez, Gladys D; Perez, Jessica; Poblano de Garcia, Zaira; Preciado, Leonela; Quintanilla, Krista S.; Ramirez, Cesar; Ramirez, Ricardo; Ramirez-Moreno, Cynthia; Ramos, Blanca E; Rangel, Melisa R; Real, Elsa; Resendez, Kassandra N.; Reyes, Uriel I.; Rodriguez, Amelia V; Rodriguez, Amy E.; Rodriguez, Lorena; Rodriguez, Tina; Salazar, Daniel O.; Salazar, Kelly I.; Salazar, Maria I.; Salinas, Marycarmen; Sanchez, Gloria Z.; Saucedo, Alejandra; Serna, Jonathan P.; Sifuentes, Gloria; Soto, Samantha C.; Tamez, Jessica; Tamez, Klarissa E; Teran, Merari T.; Tovar, Julio C; Trevino, Tano; Vargas, Ana M.; Vasquez, Elizabeth; Vela, San Juanita; Vela, Sonia L; Vera Jr., Francisco R.; 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 December 2023 Staff Senate Meeting Minutes.**

Three Revisions noted by Ana Vargas.

Motions to approve- 1st Marissa Arce, 2nd Derrick Crooks

- **Treasurer's Report:**

Previous balance of \$ 13,055.00. Revenue and donations of \$ 975.00. Expenses of \$ 1,201.00. Remaining balance: \$ 12,829.00.

- **Speaker / Presentation**

- *Christina Oviedo, Professional Counselor Student Counseling and Disability Services- Mental Health and the Holidays.* Information was shared regarding Supporting University Staff's Mental Health During the Holiday Season, understanding holiday stress, recognizing stress and burnout, self-care tips, cultivating supportive environments and supporting colleagues and tips for seeking help. For more information and support you can reach out to Ms. Oviedo's office at <https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/> Other helpful links are Border Region, 956-794-3000; SCAN 956-724-3177; Pillar, 956-723-7457; Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988; The Trevor Project, 1-866-488-7366; Border Region Crisis Line, 1-800-643-1102.

Ashley Carey, Employee Benefits Representative HR shared links:
Emotional Wellbeing website:

<https://www.tamus.edu/benefits/emotional-wellbeing/emotional-wellbeing-resources/>

Work/Life Solutions by GuidanceResources at

<http://www.guidanceresources.com> , available to all full-time employees and dependents

BCBS A&M Care Plan Learn to Live

<https://www.learntolive.com/welcome/BCBSTX;>

MD Life website: <https://patient.mdlive.com/register?id=1052#/step-1> app:

<https://www.mdlive.com/mobile-app>

Well OnTarget website: <https://www.bcbstx.com/tamus/health-and-wellbeing/wellontarget>

Blue Access for Members (BAM) website: <https://www.bcbstx.com/tamus>

Headway Website: <https://headway.co/m/tamus>

- *Angie Sifuentes Texas A&M Agrilife Extension- Healthy Holidays.* Information was shared on eating healthy during the holidays, what healthy meals should include such as a healthy mix of proteins, dairy, fat, sugar and sodium etc. She encouraged us to finish the holiday season healthy and "maintain no gain". For more information on this material and to sign up for their newsletter, visit <https://webb.agrilife.org/mng>. Ms. Sifuentes' contact information is Angelica.sifuentes@ag.tamu.edu and 956-523-5286.

- **Staff Senate News**

- Bylaws Update and Vote- QR link provided to allow vote on whether or not we should 1) open the Constitution for further review and amend it by removing the mention of the Governance Committee with the understanding that it has not been utilized in the past or 2) amend the Bylaws to include the mention of the Governance Committee to comply with the Staff Senate Constitution.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ApeFvN4LC8?origin=lprLink>

Motions to approve- 1st Derrick Crooks, 2nd Merari T. Teran

***Further Discussion, review and voting needed.

- Staff Senate VP of Marketing and Communications vacancy, nominations and vote. Consuelo Guzman will be vacating her position as she has accepted another position. Daniel Berndt and the Staff Senate have recommended Clarissa Guerrero, Strength and Conditioning Specialist in TAMIU Recreational Sports as her replacement and opened the floor to any other nominations. No additional nominations submitted. Motion to appoint Clarissa Guerrero as the VP of Marketing and Communications as of January 2024. Farewell and Best Wishes to Consuelo Guzman.

Motions to approve- 1st Heather Benavides, 2nd Christina Oviedos

- Holiday Gala recap and feedback survey- 820lbs of food donations were collected at the Gala which will be for the TAMIU food Pantry; compliments to the balloon arch made by Aleen Gutierrez which decorated the entryway and to everyone who assisted with making the night a beautiful success. Survey link to TAMIU Holiday Gala 2023 Survey provided for attendees to give Staff Senate feedback on the event

<https://forms.office.com/r/XSLH5ps74H> .

- “Slice of Thanks” recap – About 200 slices of pie given away to staff who stopped by to visit with us before the Thanksgiving Holiday. More events such as this are being planned by Staff Senate.
- Little Library is now located in Pellegrino Hall Rm 301. Patsy Lopez- Executive Assistant with the College of Education encourages everyone to stop in and enjoy a new relaxing space where you can peruse a book provided and also bring in books to contribute to the selection.
- What’cha Watching / Reading over the Holidays? Daniel encouraged everyone to share any recommendations of books, movies and/or albums

they may be currently enjoying during these holidays.

- Question Follow-up. Daniel addressed several questions that have been submitted to the Staff Senate website comments box or were received through email. Names were not mentioned. This was done as an attempt to encourage staff to voice any concerns they may have. Questions addressed were: How are names entered into Staff Senate raffles? How about a Tamalada Lunch for Holidays instead of an evening event? Is a Flexed Summer work schedule a possibility?

Website to submit questions or comments to Staff Senate

<https://www.tamtu.edu/staffsenate/index.shtml>.

- Next Staff Senate Meeting will be held on January 16, 2024 (3rd Thursday)

- **TAMTU News**

- Yesika Barajas, Senior Administrative Associate with TAMTU Athletics shared several upcoming athletic events. Saturday, December 16th are the Women's and Men's basketball games where we will be hosting Texas A&M Kingsville and it will also be Highschool Night with the UHS Band and LBJ Spirit Team performing. Friday December, 29th Women's basketball vs. LeTourneau. January 4th Men's basketball vs. St. Edwards and January 6th Men's basketball vs. St. Mary's.

Visit the TAMTU Athletics website for full schedules <https://godustdevils.com/> or email Yesika, directly for more information.

- Next EHS Workshop: Sheltering "In- Place", Thursday, December, 21st 2023 at 2pm in AIC 128 in partnership with UPD.
To sign up, please visit go.tamtu.edu/ehs.
- COVID19 Update- Testing kits and sanitizers are still available at UPD, Physical Plant and Killam Library.

- **Open Floor**

- Heather Benavides and Daniel Salazar reminded us the timesheets are due this Thursday, early due to Holidays and early processing of payroll.

- **Door Prizes**

- Elsa Real
- Ashley Carey
- Starbucks gift card winner Graciela Gutierrez

- **Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 15:22 pm**

- 1st motion Martha Laura Medina
- 2nd motion Ana Vargas

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