



## STAFF SENATE

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, 2 pm

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

**Attendees:** Gutierrez, Michael E.; Barrera, Julie E; Molina, Josefina; Soulas, Melissa; Gonzalez, Ana; Ceballos, Marcos; Medina, Julio C; Trevino, Roberto; Cervantes, Jordan A.; Larumbe, Rogelio D.; Martinez, Brenda C; Martinez, Julio C.; Caballero, Cesar A; Garcia, Hilda P.; Martinez, Claudia E.; Poblano de Garcia, Zaira; Salazar, Kelly I.; Ramirez, Ricardo; Salinas, Marycarmen; Pedraza, Carlos; Aspelund, Jan; Lozano, Heleodoro; Reyes, Uriel I.; Rodriguez, Amelia V; Granado, Elizabeth D; Berlanga, Janessa J.; Tamez, Jessica; Lopez, Virginia A.; Vasquez, Elizabeth; Hinojosa, Lyanne; Santos, Evette; Real, Elsa; Perez, Arianna V.; Arce, Alice; Gonzalez, Arcelia L; Almaraz, Vanessa L; Rivas-Martinez, Andres J.; Acosta Lopez, Jessica A; Ordonez, Samuel; Blasco, Maria M; Casares, Kathy A; Calderon, Cristina M; Lugo, Sandy M; Al-Nasser, Sanaa; Trevino, Tano; Benero-Roman, Yarisely; Sandoval, Araceli; Echandy, Laura; Rojas, Christine; Cardenas Jr., Jose G.; Martinez, Elizabeth; Franco Hinojosa, Zoila; Saucedo, Alejandra; Howarth, Natalie; Saucedo, Diana M; Foster, M. Susan; Cortez, Lorissa M; Villagran, Gloria; Mancha, Maria D; Cedillo, Brittany L.; Leal, Karla; Vargas, Ana M.; Botello, Denisse; Gutierrez, Graciela; Salazar, Daniel O.; Jimenez De La Fuente, Cecilia A.; Perez, Gladys D; Elizalde, Anna K; Ramos, Armandina; Garza, Priscilla M.; Hernandez, Bernardo; Preciado, Leonela; Ramos, Blanca E; Castillo, Alexander; Zamudio, Georgina; Manrique, Ana K; Martinez, Cynthia; Rodriguez, Lorena; Garza, Sofia A; Carey, Ashley K; Palacios Robledo, Monica; Ornelas, Patricia; Pena, Alenia V; Soto, Ivette J.; Hernandez, Gloria P; Martinez, Cecilia; Gonzalez, Jr., Guillermo F; Pedraza, Karla; Maldonado, Sofia C; Trevino, Karina L.; Echeverria, Perla A; Calderon, Celina M; Flores-Westerman, Maria C; Franco, Yahaira S; Martinez, Elena M; Hernandez, Maria Elena; Bella, Carlos; Pena, Julian D.; Palacios, Amy; Flores, Aide; Gonzalez, Jessica M.; Madrigales, Sarah; Vela, San Juanita; Eligio Alejandro, Alejandra; Tamez, Klarissa E; Solis, Nataly; Lopez, Patricia G; Ramirez, Jr., Alfredo; Lara, Anna B; Franco Garza, Celeste L; Gordillo, Franz; Crooks, Derrick W; Hernandez, Andria M; Bryand, Sandra G.; Tovar, Julio C; Kilburn, John C; Valenzuela, David H; Rodriguez, Norma L; Martinez, Jr., Juan; Martinez, Vanessa F.; Vazquez, Azeneth; Aquino, Maria C; Morales, Virginia A; Garza, Valeria L.; Justice, Donah M.; Covington, Rhonda V; Flores, Victoria; Gonzalez, Joshua R.; Martinez, Alma Y.; Ramos, Tracey; Vela, Sonia L; Ramos, Rosabel; Rodriguez, Susana; Barberena Asiain, Mariana; Salazar, Maria I.; Garcia Gurrola, Rocio M.; Medrano, Erika; Olivas, Miguel S; Rivera, Damaris; Rodriguez, Adriana H.; Garcia III, Heberto; Contreras, Joscelen

- **Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 14:00 by Staff Senate President Daniel Berndt.
- **Review of February 2024 Staff Senate Meeting Minutes.** Motions to approve- 1st Lorissa Cortez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Lopez
- **Treasurer's Report:** Previous balance of \$ 9,733. Donations of \$ 25.00. Remaining balance: \$ 9,758.00.
- **Speaker / Presentation**
  - Staff from SBDC- Sandy Lugo from the TAMIU Small Business Development Center. Information shared regarding small business advising and consulting at no cost is offered

here at TAMIU. Shares that they have free webinars every month. Having a trucking industry series and a taxes series. Future events are available.

Links offered:

About SBDC: <https://www.tamiau.edu/sbdc/>

Register for training: <https://www.tamiau.edu/sbdc/events.shtml>

- **Staff Senate News**

- Staff senate Vacancy: Clarify our secretary position role and open the floor for nominations.

Nominations: Sarah Madrigales

Sarah Madrigale accepted the nomination for secretary.

1<sup>st</sup> Motions: Derrick Crooks 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Hilda Garcia.

Sarah Madrigales was successfully appointed staff senate secretary.

- Bylaws update. - Still in progress; more updates in the upcoming meeting.
- NeighborWorks Laredo- 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.

NWL Website: <https://www.nwllaredo.org/>

Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/am2w49HH1Q>

- Employee Recognition Program by Staff Senate- Thank you for nominating a fellow staff member in the TAMIU community. There will be two winners, one exempt employee and one nonexempt employee. Winners will be announced in April and receive a \$100 cash prize and plaque.
- Book Scholarship- Winners will be announced soon
- Spring Candy Bration Fundraiser!: Small candy baskets can be sent to a TAMIU employee. Orders are open now and will be open until March 22. The candy grams will be delivered on Wednesday, March 27.

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C20208\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2791&FROMQRCODE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C20208_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2791&FROMQRCODE=true)

- Total Eclipse Watch Party: Total Solar Eclipse Monday, April 8, 2024, 12:00 -2:00 pm.

No comments, Questions, or suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to the staff senate.

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

- **TAMIU News**

- Athletics Updates- Yesika Barajas announced that we just wrapped up with basketball, and both men and women were in the final 4. Baseball and softball are still in season. Yesika encouraged them to watch them tomorrow. Please visit the websites for all updates. <https://godustdevils.com/>

- Recreational Sports- Clarissa Guerrero shared info on current TAMIU eSports competitions. Please visit the link for updates and plans to come out and support.  
<https://www.tamiau.edu/recsports/index.shtml>  
<https://www.tamiau.edu/recsports/esports.shtml>  
<https://www.tamiau.edu/recsports/esports-tryouts.shtml>
  - Summer of Soul Screening will take place on February 20th from 2:00 – 5:00pm AIC 126. This event is free and open to the public.  
<https://www.tamiau.edu/newsinfo/2024/02/blackhistorymonth21524.shtml>
  - The Big Event, PVSA, Submitting Hours Saturday, March 23rd, 2024- Priscilla Cadena delivered information on the event, which this year will take place in the Canta Ranas Neighborhood on the West side of Laredo. Daniel informed them that they will install smoke detectors and encouraged staff to volunteer.  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePYOkPLqrmTZoAzVsutHM8HTz5VEz\\_AH11uzTcBo4S72Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePYOkPLqrmTZoAzVsutHM8HTz5VEz_AH11uzTcBo4S72Q/viewform), <https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/pvsa.shtml>  
<https://tamiau.presence.io/>
  - Discover TAMIU will take place on April 6th from 11:00am to 3:00pm. This is an annual event that is free and open to the public. Vanessa Martinez reminded us that all departments are encouraged to host an activity or booth on campus during the event.  
<https://www.tamiau.edu/discovertamiau/> Daniel informs them of this community event and encourages people to host a table. He also encourages staff to come to the event if they are not working.
  - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance VITA: Closed for Spring Break but will be Open on Monday and will return to regular activity assisting taxpayers on campus for FREE It is located in WHT 126 and open Monday – Friday 5:30 -8:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am- 3:00 pm <https://www.tamiau.edu/vita/index.shtml>, [vitalaredo@tamiau.edu](mailto:vitalaredo@tamiau.edu)
  - EHS Workshops- Daniel Berndt shared upcoming workshops for Spring 2024 including topics such as Emergency Preparedness 101, next weekly they will be hosting personal preparedness. Please visit the website to sign up for more information and to sign up for classes. [go.tamiau.edu/EHS https://www.tamiau.edu/adminis/safety/index.shtml](https://www.tamiau.edu/adminis/safety/index.shtml)
  - Berndt said that safety is Bringing back the national weather SKYWARM training on Tuesday, March 36, 2024, at 1pm STC 236. They will teach them how to identify and report emergency weather conditions. This event is open to the community.
  - First-year experience symposium: calling for judges. Where you will assess projects on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The final day for sign-up is April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
<https://go.tamiau.edu/fyejudge>
- **Open Floor**
    - Ashley Carrie: Healthy u March 28 lunch and learn at student center 231: Texas Saver is coming to campus to give more information about our benefits. Only 8 one on one slots available: <https://francisco-x-hernandez.empowermytime.com>
    - Susan Foster informs is that Registration for summer camp opens soon
    - Spring Sub Term II is March 18 tuition is due the same day.
    - Bible study group Natalie Howarth.
    - TED May 17.

- Reading the c The Reading the Globe group is in Japan for the next two weeks. Follow their journey at <https://www.instagram.com/tamiureadingtheglobe/>
- Derek Crooks: The Office of Career Services will be hosting The Honorable Raul Reyes '10, '17 - Webb County Treasurer for our Coffeehouse on Wednesday. Posters are posted around campus. If you could, please share them with any students interested in hearing Mr. Reyes' presentation. This will be next Wednesday,. You can get more information with me at ext. 4473. The link to event is: <https://tamiu.joinhandshake.com/edu/events/1502807>
- Daniel gave special “shout-out” to the Police department for their ongoing emergency preparedness efforts and active intruder training
- **Door Prizes**
  - Alejandra Saucedo: Red bag from testing Center
  - Carlos Bella: Clear bag
  - Jose Cardenas: Clear Bag
  - Ana Gonzalez: \$25 Starbucks gift card
- Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 14:57
  - 1st motion Clarissa Guerrero 2nd motion Derrick Crooks