



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**2pm / Teams**

**Attendees:** Abrego, Patricia C.; Acosta Lopez, Jessica A; Aguilar, Reynaldo; Almaraz, Vanessa L; Angeles, Jhoanna; Aquino, Maria C; Arce, Alice; Arce, Marissa D.; Arias, Ronaldo; Aspelund, Jan; Barajas, Yesika; Barberena Asiain, Mariana; Barrera, Aquiles; Barrera, Julie E; Barrientos, Erick; Begwin, Michelle A.; Beltran, Claudia C.; Benavides, Rosario; Benero-Roman, Yarisely; Berlanga, Janessa J.; Bernal, Airam F.; Berndt, Daniel; BIGLOU; Blasco, Maria M; Bocanegra, Flora; Botello, Enrique E.; Calderon, Cristina M; Canales, Michelle S; Cantu, Erika; Cardenas Jr., Jose G.; Carey, Carlisle, Jody; Ashley K; Castillo, Alexander; Cavazos, Jessica M; Ceballos, Marcos A; Cedillo, Brittany L.; Cervantes, Jordan A.; Contreras, Joscelen; Cortez, Athena V.; Cortez, Lorissa M; Covington, Rhonda V; Cruz, Maria Leticia; De La Garza, Maria D; De La Garza, Nadia C; De Leon, Isabel S.; Delgado, Rebecca S.; Dickinson, Rosie A; Dominguez, Melissa J.; Duffy, Stephen M.; Echanday, Laura; Echeverria, Perla A; Eligio Alejandro, Alejandra; Elizalde, Anna K; Elizondo, Christa L.; Elizondo, M Laura; Flores, Aide; Flores, Samuel; Flores, Victoria; Foster, M. Susan; Garcia Gurrola, Rocio M.; Garcia III, Heberto; Garcia, Hilda P.; Garcia, Rocio; Garcia, Rosalinda; Garza, Denisse; Garza, Guadalupe O; Garza, Sofia A; Gonzalez, Ana; Gonzalez, Alejandra; Gonzalez, Ana; Gonzalez, Jessica M.; Gonzalez, Jr., Guillermo F; Gonzalez, Selina; Gutierrez, Graciela; Gutierrez, Michael E.; Hernandez, Bernardo; Hernandez, Gloria P; Hernandez, Maria Elena; Hernandez, Mayra G.; Hinojosa, Lyanne; Howard, Yelitza M.; ; Justice, Donah M.; Larumbe, Rogelio D.; Leal, Karla; Litman, Rebeca R; Lopez, Patricia G; Lopez, Virginia A.; Madrigales, Sarah; Maldonado, Sofia C; Mancha, Maria D; Martinez, Alma Y.; Martinez, Cecilia; Martinez, Claudia E.; Martinez, Cynthia; Martinez, Elena M; Martinez, Elizabeth; Martinez, Gabriela; Martinez, Jose A.; Martinez, Jr., Juan; Martinez, Julio C.; Martinez, Vanessa F.; Medina, Julio C; Medrano, Erika; Mireles, Vanessa L.; Molina, Josefina; Montes, Jaime A; Morin, Melissa A; Olivarez, Melissa D.; Ordonez, Samuel; Ornelas, Patricia; Ortega, Paola; Ortegón, Joselyn D.; Ortiz, Daniela; Ortiz, Daniela M.; Ortiz, Victoria G.; Palacios Robledo, Monica; Palacios, Rosanne; Pedraza, Karla; Perez, Arianna V.; Perez, Cihltlalli G; Perez, Cordelia G; Perez, Gladys D; Perez, Jessica; Poblano de Garcia, Zaira; Preciado, Leonela; Quintanilla, Krista S.; Ramirez, Cesar; Ramirez-Moreno, Cynthia; Ramos, Armandina; Ramos, Blanca E; Rangel, Melisa R; Real, Elsa; Rivera, Damaris; Rodriguez, Lorena; Rodriguez, Norma L; Rodriguez, Tina; Salazar, Daniel O.; Salazar, Kelly I.; Salazar, Maria I.; Salinas, Marycarmen; Sanchez, Gloria Z.; Sandoval, Araceli; Santos, Rolando E.; Saucedo, Alejandra; Saucedo, Diana M; Serna, Jonathan P.; Serna, Jose A.; Sherman, Denisse; Soto, Ivette J.; Soto, Samantha C.; Soulas, Melissa; Tamez, Jessica; Tamez, Klarissa E; Teran, Merari T.; Tovar, Julio C; Trevino, Tano; Valenzuela, David H; Vallarta, Carlos A; Vargas, Ana M.; Vela, San Juanita; Verastigui, Jessica L.; Villagran, Gloria; Villagran, Juana E.; 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 October 2023 Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

Motions to approve- 1st Enrique Botello, 2nd Susan Foster

- **Treasurer's Report:**

Previous balance of \$ 12,725. Revenue of \$ 961.00. Expenses of \$ 586.00. Remaining balance: \$ 13,055.00.

- **Speaker / Presentation**

- *Rosanne Palacios, VP for Institutional Advancement* Commencement Attendance - Reminded us about Giving Day where the goal is to reach out to just one person to donate at least \$10 to the University and how that could make a big difference. She went on to share information regarding Staff attending the upcoming Convocation ceremonies. She stated an email with more info would be sent out soon detailing possible flex time to encourage staff attendance.  
<https://alumni.tamtu.edu/s/1930/dog20/home.aspx?sid=1930&gid=2&pgid=518>
- *Big Lou, I Love Laredo Respect Your Block- Don't Mess with Laredo* - Shared info on their nonprofit group which aims to make changes in our community solely dependent on volunteer initiatives. They get together several times a month to beautify local parks by picking up litter and even painting etc. " If you see something you don't like, do something about it"  
[ilovelaredo2019@gmail.com](mailto:ilovelaredo2019@gmail.com) <https://www.facebook.com/ILOVELTX/>
- *Jody Carlisle VITA Program, Lecturer Division of International Banking and Finance*- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance has been around for over a decade and offers free tax preparation assistance available to the entire community free of charge to residents in Laredo and Zapata County. Volunteers are trained and IRS certified to help. They do about 600 tax refunds a year and are now located here on campus at TAMIU at the WHTC and they are open Monday-Friday 10am to 1pm and 530pm to 830pm and Saturday 9am to 3pm. They will begin accepting appointments and walk ins towards the end of January 2024.  
<https://www.tamtu.edu/newsinfo/2023/01/vitaprogram12623.shtml>

- **Staff Senate News**

- Bylaws Update and Vote - Previously sent out for review and approval. Daniel requested motions to approve the new Bylaws with the noted revisions and edits. 1st motion Martha Laura Medina, 2nd motion Enrique Botello; however, vote was paused after further discussion to ensure current bylaws and other governing documents are being followed appropriately. More discussion to occur at future meetings.

- Staff Senate Book Scholarship - Three Winners' pictures provided – Vanessa Almaraz, Alejandra Alejandro and Tiffany Gutierrez. Congratulations to all the winners. Scholarship was for TAMIU staff who are actively enrolled in TAMIU courses.
- 2023 Holiday Gala – Save the Date – Saturday, December 2nd, 2023. Doors open at 6pm and new theme is “Masquerade” and music by Giovanelli Live Band. Masks may be provided and added to table decor. RSVP’s are temporarily closed, but please sign up to be added to the waitlist.
- Labor Day Discussion and Poll – Staff Senate survey administered to determine level of impact working Labor Day had on you as an individual. <https://forms.office.com/r/7YsDfAiqSr> Data collected from 92 responses was inconclusive, and next steps will be placed on pause unless additional data warrants additional action.
- Staff Senate will be hosting “A Slice of Thanks” event on Friday November 17th from 4pm to 6pm at the KCB Lobby. Everyone is welcome to stop by and enjoy a slice of pie.
- Staff Senate Halloween Candygram Fundraiser- \$5 Candy bags were available for purchase and delivery on Halloween Day to staff. 246 grams were purchased and a total of over \$900 was raised.
- Staff Senate Inbox question follow ups. First question was regarding any Thanksgiving events coming up for staff. Answer was that we will be hosting the Slice of Thanks. Second question was regarding students parking in the reserved parking lots. Answer is that Staff Senate has relayed that concern to UPD and will follow up. Reminder to use the website for update board info., campus events, scholarships, suggestion box etc. <https://www.tamiu.edu/staffsenate/index.shtml>
- **TAMIU News**
  - EHS Workshops- Dr. Virginia Berndt “Disaster Movie: Fact or Fiction” November 16th at 2pm AIC 128.
  - COVID-19 Update. Test kits and hand sanitizers will continue to be available at EHS Physical Plant and UPD.
  - TAMIU Revised Mission Statement- Dr. Duffy provided details and stated revision is part of updating our strategic plan and feedback is greatly

appreciated. Please email [Staff.senate@tamiu.edu](mailto:Staff.senate@tamiu.edu)

- 2024 – 2025 FAFSA Changes – Priscilla Munoz, Associate Director Email any questions to [financialaid@tamiu.edu](mailto:financialaid@tamiu.edu) or use the link <https://www.tamiu.edu/financialaid/importantnews.shtml>
- Rotaract 5 K Race/ 2.5 Walk- Dr. Patricia Abrego, Saturday, November 18th. <https://run4liferotarydefeatingdiabetes.itsyduurance.com>. November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Register ahead of time to participate and volunteers welcomed.
- K-8 Family Coding Extravaganza - Dr. Patricia Abrego and OIT. <https://qr1be/O8ZK> for family registration and <https://qr1be/C12Z> for volunteer registrations.
- Holiday Wreath Making Workshop with Briseida Herrera. Classes will be held on November 17th and December 1st from 530pm to 730pm. \$55.00 fee per class. [https://secure.touchnet.com:443/C20208\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRDUCTID=2738](https://secure.touchnet.com:443/C20208_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRDUCTID=2738)
- Capturing the Moment with Frida Galindo. Class will be held December 2nd from 9am to 12 pm. \$90.00 fee for class. [https://secure.touchnet.com:443/C20208\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRDUCTID=2739](https://secure.touchnet.com:443/C20208_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRDUCTID=2739)
- TAMIU Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at the Killam Library grounds on **November 30th in the evening.**
- **Open Floor**
  - **Provost's Office** reminding us of several new grant opportunities available for upper-level STEM students through the TAMIU AIRES Grant [aires@tamiu.edu](mailto:aires@tamiu.edu).
  - Yesika Barajas from TAMIU Athletics first home game for basketball happening now and there are several men's and women's basketball home games happening this week. Please go to the webpage to view the full schedule and come out and Support the Dust Devils. <https://godustdevils.com/>
  - **Cordelia Perez**, Chief of TAMIU Police Department. UPD is collecting Christmas gifts which are to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center.

All donations are welcomed. <https://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/police/>

- Marycarmen Salinas Associate Director of Student Health Services. Gave information on the last vaccine clinic being held for staff and faculty at the ballroom tomorrow November 15th from 11am to 1230pm and appointments are still available. They will be giving the Flu and COVID vaccines.

- **Door Prizes**

- Paola Ortega
- Michael Gutierrez
- Sofia Garza
- Starbucks gift card winner Selina Gonzalez

- **Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 14:45 pm**

- 1<sup>st</sup> motion Mayra Hernandez
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion Martha Laura Medina

Final