

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, January 27, 2015

The President's Executive Council met this morning to discuss a series of agenda items impacting our university. The following is a summary of the discussions held in that meeting.

The Texas Legislature's Senate Finance Committee Hearing

The meeting began with an announcement by the president that he had been informed yesterday by a member of the Texas A&M University System's (TAMUS) administrative team that the state's Senate Finance Committee will be meeting next Wednesday, February 04, 2015, in Austin to hear budgetary requests from each of the universities in the system. In preparation for this meeting, Dr. Keck informed the Council that he had been responding to requests for budgetary information by the TAMUS's administration. In short, the Senate Finance Committee membership will hear and consider our budgetary requests for the next biennium.

Heartland Conference/Lone Star Conference Merger

The president announced that after several months of negotiations between our athletic conference (Heartland) and competitor conference (Lone Star) to possibly merge a decision was finally reached last week to not merge. A series of reasons for this decision were summarized for the Council, and they include, but are not limited to, issues associated with athletic competition between university organizations that find themselves at diverse levels of historical development that may create inequitable athletic events. Additionally, organizational size, university affiliations and orientations were all also cited as reasons for the decision.

Differences, if any, in football inflation policies between the organizations were not mentioned as a reason so I imagine this was not a factor in the discussions!

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Schools (SACS COC)

For the past several weeks, the university's administrators and several members of the Executive Council have been engaged in comprehensive and sustained administrative and academic activities related to the upcoming March 2015 On-Site Committee Review by SACS COC. In preparation for that visit, two highly experienced university consultants, previous SACS COC administrators, and current university-level administrators have been working with members of our administrative team to prepare responses to the follow-up report that will serve as the basis for the follow-up SACS COC visit.

Dr. C. William (Bill) McKee and Dr. Eric Cummings from Cumberland University have visited our university twice this month and have spent several days and long weekends reviewing the administration's response (referred to as the Focus Report) to the SACS COC initial report. Dr. McKee is currently the provost and vice president at Cumberland University while Dr. Cummings serves as the dean of the College of Education and Humanities at Cumberland. Prior to his work at Cumberland, Dr. McKee served as president and CEO of SACS COC.

The work of preparing the Focus Report has required the input and expertise of many at this university as well since the initial review committee at SACS COC reflected on their report the need for additional information on several of the accreditation standards which form the basis of

the reaccreditation and reaffirmation processes. One observation that has been made is that in an age of increasing accountability, the review committees--who are peer faculty at several universities across the United States and not SACS employees--have left little room for any interpretation of the standards for accreditation and have elected to be guided by a more narrowly constructed focused view of policy implementation. Regardless of the emphasis, the university administration has worked diligently during the last several weeks to provide SACS COC with any all requested information.

House Bill 2504 and PC Refresh

Dr. Brian Gaskins reported that all undergraduate syllabi had been received and posted accordingly to the university website in order to comply with all of the requirements of Texas House Bill 2504 which requires all undergraduate syllabi to be posted to the university's website and easily accessible within a specific number of clicks of the mouse.

Brian also informed the Council that he would be sending an email announcing the PC Refresh process. The members of the Council asked him to wait until after the 20th class day to make the announcement as most members of the staff are busy completing the SACS report.

Enrollment

Mrs. Gina Gonzalez reviewed the most current enrollment numbers and projections for this semester. Attached, you will find the most current enrollment report (see attachment A). Gina asked for assistance from the faculty to please remind all students to pay their tuition bill and/or ask for assistance to complete this process.

Spirit Week

Mr. Gerry Alva shared a flyer announcing TAMIU's Annual Spirit Week and all related activities (see attachment B).

Athletics

Mr. Griz Zimmermann distributed schedules for both the women's softball and men's baseball teams (see attachment C). He asked all members to help support our athletes by attending the games.

With that, the meeting adjourned.

For those of you who joined the university community for the first time this spring, these notes are brought to you on behalf of the TAMIU Faculty Senate. We hope you will find them useful and informative.

Respectfully,
Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.