

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
Monday, February 9, 2015

The President's Executive Council met this morning to discuss a series of agenda items impacting our university (see attachment A). The following is a summary of the discussion of those items.

Texas Senate Finance Committee

The meeting began with a brief announcement by the president that he and several university administrators would be traveling to Austin today in preparation for the Senate Finance Committee hearing scheduled to be held tomorrow Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Dr. Keck informed the Council that he is scheduled to testify before the committee. At that time, he will be presenting all university budgetary requests for the coming biennium. He also informed the committee that at next week's Executive Council meeting he would share the results of that presentation.

Additionally, the president informed the Council that the university administration would also be traveling to College Station on Wednesday and Thursday to attend the quarterly meeting of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents' meeting.

New Human Resources Director

The president announced a change in personnel in the Human Resources Department. Ms. Martha Olivos-Gonzalez will now be serving in the position of human resources director while Mrs. Sandra V. Pena will be serving in the position of employee relations/institutional equity/Title IX coordinator. Mr. Juan Castillo, vice-president for finance and administration who holds direct line authority for the human resources office, announced that the switch in personnel was the direct result of SACS COC requirements and expectations for that office.

Update on Texas Academy of International and STEM Studies at TAMIU

The meeting continued with a presentation by Dr. Patricia Uribe and Ms. Naiely Martinez regarding the completion of the school's first semester in operation. Dr. Uribe shared with the Council a video depicting the students who are currently enrolled in the Academy engaged in many on-campus academic activities displaying the success of the school's first semester. Dr. Uribe provided additional data that served to further demonstrate the success of the program. These data included the number of students enrolled, semester credit hour completion, GPA distributions, and the upcoming registration process for the 2015-2016 cohort.

Additionally, the Council heard a testimonial by Angie Saucedo, a first year Academy student who was highly successful during her first year of enrollment in the program. This student stated that the students' transition from a traditional high school campus setting to a four-year university setting has been academic challenging for her and her classmates. Angie also stated that the effort to adjust and the experience at the school have made the first semester at the school a rewarding one that the overwhelming majority of the students in the first cohort plan to continue until graduation.

Discover TAMIU

Mrs. Gina Gonzalez followed Dr. Uribe with a presentation regarding the upcoming Discover TAMIU event that will be held for the first time this spring semester. The program is modeled after The University of Texas at Austin's student recruitment program. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. on the TAMIU campus.

Several of the goals for the event include, but are not limited to, providing an opportunity to familiarize Texas public school district students, parents, and school district community stakeholders with the TAMIU university community, program offerings, faculty research projects and the new knowledge resulting from such research through a series of short faculty and staff presentations on that day.

Gina informed the Council that, to date, over 1,000 public school students and parents have made reservations to attend. In order to make this event a success, Gina is asking all faculty to consider organizing a series of short presentations for these students on any topic of interest to faculty that will also be of interest to future students of this university. All faculty are highly encouraged to participate in this event as it provides faculty with an opportunity to connect their work not only with the external community but also to provide interest and motivation for future TAMIU students. For details, faculty is asked to contact Ms. Gina Gonzalez, associate vice-president for student success or their respective department chair.

Spirit Week

Following the two presentations, Mr. Jerry Alva provided a brief summary of the events held during TAMIU Spirit Week. Mr. Alva announced that Miguel San Miguel and Yadira Ramirez were selected to hold the title of Mr. and Ms. TAMIU. Jerry shared that Spirit Week was a success.

Additionally, he distributed two flyers announcing upcoming student events. The first event is titled Consent Week and will be held the week of February 09-13 (see attachment B). The second event is titled the Vagina Monologues and will be held on Friday, February 13, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., serving as the closing event for Consent Week events (see attachment C).

LBV Foundation and Early Literacy Centers

Dr. Catheryn Weitman, dean of the College of Education, announced that the Lamar Bruni Vergara (LBV) Foundation trustees awarded \$32,000.00 for the start-up of a second early childhood literacy center at Ligarde Elementary School in the Laredo Independent School District. The program was started a few years ago by Dr. Phil Roberson in the College of Education in conjunction with faculty from a Tennessee university that has a rich history of success with these models of early literacy intervention.

The first literacy center was established at Cuellar Elementary School in the United Independent School District. Over the last several years, this program has enjoyed great success, and the students who participate have exhibited significant gains in academic achievement. For these reasons, LBV trustees have expressed additional interest in providing future funding to implement the program at all elementary schools in both school districts. If authorization is

granted by the school districts to fully implement the program, LBV trustees have pledged an annual funding rate of \$500,000.00 for this program.

Drops for Non-Payment

Dr. Minita Ramirez shared the most recent number of students who have not paid their tuition bill and are scheduled to be dropped for non-payment. Currently, 176 students have not paid. Dr. Ramirez asked the deans to make every effort to work collaboratively with all college administrators, department chairs, academic directors, academic program coordinators, and faculty to remind students that the 20th class day is Monday, February 16, 2015. Any student who has not paid by then will be dropped for non-payment.

Dr. Ramirez also shared the most current enrollment data (see attachment D).

Sophomore Student Success Initiative

Dr. Conchita Hickey shared an announcement from the PROF Center regarding faculty development opportunities (see attachment E).

Employee/Staff Annual Evaluations

The meeting ended with the announcement by Mr. Juan Castillo that the annual employee evaluation process is now underway. All evaluation materials have been distributed to the appropriate administrators. Questions regarding these evaluations should be addressed to corresponding deans and/or respective university department administrators.

With that announcement, the meeting ended at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.