

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**  
**September 01, 2014**

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

**Enrollment—Mrs. Gina Gonzalez**

The meeting began with a discussion of the most current enrollment figures (see attachment B). As of the fourth class day, headcount is up 0.59% over this period last year, and semester credit hour (SCH) production is up 4.35% over this period last year as well. Gina explained that these numbers are not final. The deadline to pay is approaching, and adjustments to enrollment figures may occur as a result of the payment deadline.

**Merit Pay Increases—Dr. Ray M. Keck**

Dr. Keck explained that the employee salary letters that went out to all employees last week did not reflect merit pay increases. Letters announcing merit pay increases for the new academic year are expected to be sent out to all employees later in the semester. Enrollment numbers impact merit pay increases, and the administration is waiting for final enrollment figures before a decision can be made. The president did state that, at this point, he is optimistic about the possibility of awarding organizational pay increases. While headcount did not increase significant, semester credit hour production may be significant enough for the creation of a merit pool.

**Board of Regents' Meeting—Dr. Ray M. Keck, Dr. Pablo Arenaz, and Mr. Juan Castillo**

Dr. Keck informed the council that Dr. Arenaz, Mr. Castillo and him will attend this week's Texas A&M University System Board of Regents' Meeting in College Station, Texas. This meeting typically takes place in August. However, this year, the meeting was moved to the first week in September.

**Common Read—Dr. Ray M. Keck**

The president shared with the council that he spent a significant part of the past weekend reading Jasmina Dervisevic-Cesic's book, *The River Runs Salt, Runs Sweet: A Memoir of Visegrad, Bosnia*. The president was cautious not to reveal the details of the book for those who had not completed the reading yet, but he did offer a very positive review of the book.

**SOLE Summit—Mr. Jerry Alva**

The associate vice-president for student affairs, Mr. Jerry Alva, explained that the Student Orientation Leadership and Engagement (SOLE) Summit was held this past weekend. This summit has been organized and held to provide leadership training to students leading student organizations on campus as well for those students serving in leadership roles throughout the campus. The students heard from a series of guest speakers who provided leadership advice and fundraising opportunities for these students. The summit was a success.

**SACS COC Compliance Report—Mrs. Mary Trevino and Mrs. Veronica Martinez**

Mary and Veronica provided the latest update regarding the submission of the initial SACS COC compliance report that is due Friday, September 05, 2014. A link was provided to the executive

council so that the members could read and provide any feedback before the final submission on Friday. Mrs. Trevino reflected that the production of the report over the past year reveals an impressive picture of faculty productivity in all areas but especially sponsored research with an estimate in the range of \$67,000,000.00 worth of current active sponsored research.

#### **Student Government Dinner—Ms. Jackie Briseno**

The Student Government Association president, Jackie Briseno offered an invitation to council members to attend the Annual International Welcome Dinner to be held Thursday, September 04, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. This dinner is held annually by the Student Government Association to initiate the beginning of a new student government association year.

#### **Freshmen Convocation—Dr. Pablo Arenaz**

Convocation will be held Friday, September 05, 2014, in the Fine and Performing Arts Building with audience overflow seating in the Theatre Building. Dr. Arenaz provided details about this event. He informed the council that he would be sending an email with additional details to all faculty and everyone participating in this event.

#### **HB 2504—Dr. Brian Gaskins**

As required by legislative policy, all undergraduate curriculum vitas and course syllabi must be posted on the university's website. Dr. Gaskins informed the council that a few faculty in two colleges were still missing the submission of these data for posting as of this morning.

#### **Athletics—Mr. Griz Zimmermann**

The athletic director passed out athletic schedules for the soccer and volleyball teams. Griz thanked everyone for their continued support and urged members of the council to continue their attendance at athletic events.

#### **Staff Senate—Mrs. Laura Elizondo and Mr. Fred Juarez**

At last week's Executive Council Meeting, Mrs. Laura Elizondo provided the results of a poll that was recently conducted by the TAMIU Staff Senate to determine whether or not to continue the summer modified work schedule (see attachment C). The overwhelming majority voted to continue with the modified work schedule. Since I did not send out notes from last week's meeting, I decided to include this item on this week's notes as it impacts the majority of the university community.

Laura also introduced the new Staff Senate president, Mr. Fred Juarez. Ending last week's meeting with a little levity, Fred facetiously stated that in his role as Staff Senate President he would only answer questions in Executive Council meetings that related to the Staff Senate as well as only those that serve to represent the best interest of the staff.

Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.