**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

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

**New Associate Vice-President for Administration**

The meeting began with an announcement by Mr. Juan Castillo, vice president for finance and administration. Mr. Castillo informed the Council that Mr. Trevor C. Liddle has been hired to serve in the position of vice-president for administration. This is a position that was previously held by Mrs. Elizabeth Martinez who retired this January. Trevor was welcomed by the president and the Council members.

**Junior and Senior Student Retention**

The meeting continued with a rather extensive research study presentation. A team led by Dr. Marcus Ynalvez conducted a mixed methods inquiry to identify both qualitative and quantitative factors that could be used as predictors of junior and senior student attrition. The qualitative data presented provided some narrative statements that were coded and thematized that students who were interviewed identified as contributing factors leading to their attrition. The quantitative data, using regression modeling, identified several factors that were strong predictors of student attrition. These data were disaggregated by college. As such the findings reported were unique to each college (see attached pdf).

**Articles Regarding Programmatic Quality Offerings in Higher Education**

The president shared with the Council a series of newspaper and magazine articles that he had read during the weekend describing significant changes in the way that universities and colleges throughout the country are attempting to make higher education more accessible. The president’s summary led to a larger group discussion of how to balance or deal with the dilemma of maintaining quality while at the same time remaining competitive in a market that is demanding universities adapt to course offering methods that, at times, may be perceived as compromising quality. The following are the links to these readings.

**Sunday *NY Times Book Review* of Jan Jarboe Russell’s book here:** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/26/books/review/infamy-and-the-train-to-crystal-city.html?ref=review&\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/26/books/review/infamy-and-the-train-to-crystal-city.html?ref=review&_r=0)**)**

**“College for the Masses” – David Leonhardt – *NY Times***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/26/upshot/college-for-the-masses.html?abt=0002&abg=1>

**“The Upwardly Mobile Barrista” – Amanda Ripley – *The Atlantic***

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/05/the-upwardly-mobile-barista/389513/>

**Telephone Usage**

The meeting continued with a presentation by Mr. Juan Castillo and Ms. Lisa Paul regarding the use of office phones to make long distance phone calls. Mainly, there is a concern that office phones are being used to make long distance calls that are not work related. Lisa explained that in the event that anyone needs to use the phone to make a long distance phone call for personal reasons the person making the call will need to reimburse the university for the cost. Also, everyone is required to maintain a log of all long distance telephone calls. Of greater concern is the fact that recently some employees have been using their office phones to make long distance overseas telephone calls that reflect much more expensive long distance rates. In those cases, the phone bills have been excessive, and the calls were not made for work related reasons.

Additionally, all university administrators with supervisory duties were reminded that it was their responsibility to review all phone bill monthly records to ensure that all calls made are work related and that appropriate steps are being taken to have employees reimburse the organization for any personal phone calls.

Anyone with a question regarding this item should seek the guidance of their immediate supervisor.

**Facebook Use During Work Hours**

The use of office phones during work hours led to an even broader discussion of the use of Facebook during work hours. Dr. Keck reminded everyone in the Council that several years ago the administration also had to remind all employees that it was not acceptable for employees to be using Facebook during work hours for reasons other than maintaining pages that were directly related to official university business. In some cases, employees had been observed engaging in non-work related postings during work hours which then led to the question of how essential was the job of an employee who obviously had more than enough time during the work day to be engaged with Facebook. Therefore, the president reminded all administrators to ensure that accountability measures are in place to ensure that university resources are not being used for non-work related reasons. Needless to say, this was a scintillating discussion, especially for a Monday morning!

**Enrollment**

Dr. Minita Ramirez provided the enrollment report that she provides every week to the Council with the most recent enrollment data (see attachments B-D).

**Athletic Department Update**

The athletic director, Mr. Griz Zimmermann, provided an extensive athletic update. He shared with the Council current standings for each of the sports that are currently in season and provided projections regarding potential playoff slots for each.

**Faculty Senate Update**

I provided a brief Faculty Senate update. Mainly, I announced that this Friday, May 01, 2015, at noon, the Senate would be holding its last meeting of the year. At that meeting, the Senate will take action on several important items that it deals with annually. We will be electing a new slate of officers for the Senate. Likewise, we will elect the Scholar and Teacher of the Year, and we will try to resolve some final issues that are pending regarding additional proposed TAMIU Faculty Handbook amendments.

I also informed the Council of the results of the most recent election regarding several proposed Handbook amendments as well as the completion of the administrator evaluations. The results of those evaluations have now been forwarded to both Dr. Keck and Dr. Arenaz for their review and distribution to the appropriate university and college administrators.

Lastly, I informed the Council that this week would be my last serving in the role of Faculty Senate president and the last set of EC notes that I would be sending to the faculty on behalf of the Senate. It has been an honor to be able to serve the university faculty in this role and look forward to the new leadership that will be provided by the new Faculty Senate president elected this Friday.

With that, the meeting ended at approximately, 11:30 a.m.

Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.

Faculty Senate President