**10/2/17**

**TAMIU Executive Council**

**Pablo Arenaz**

Dr. Arenaz welcomed our new student regent (Stephen Shuchart) from the Texas A&M system.

Dr. Arenaz mentioned that we need to develop a unified calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. Steve Harman mentioned that the university uses a calendar system powered by Trumba. If this could be fully adopted then future scheduling headaches might be avoided.

Our university president attended a start group within the South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade that involves as major players, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Laredo. The goal of this group is to improve the economic viability of the region.

Soon two task forces will be established that include infusing computer coding across the curriculum and entrepreneurship.

November 16 will mark the date for the topping off ceremony for the new building.

At the suggestion of Lauren Jones, Title IX training through TrainTraq will be required for students.

**Steve Harmon and Ana Vargas**

Gave a brief presentation on the new version of U-connect. This version is more streamlined and designed to be responsive especially for mobile devices.

This interface will be configured for different users (Staff, Faculty, Students).

The new U-connect has some virtues as it will centralize commonly used forms and policies. Additionally, teaching and course management functions will be centralized.

Apparently extensive testing was conducted with student focus groups. I was assured that if this new interface does not meet the needs of the faculty than some addition tweaking is possible.

**Gina Rodriguez in Place of Minita Raminez**

No enrollment report was given. The final certified numbers will be given on October 15.

**Tom Mitchel and Several Deans**

Freshman retention numbers are down and stand at 76%. Recent changes to state testing lowered writing scores and reading comprehension is thought to be a significant issue.

There was discussion of restructuring the signature courses however nothing firm has been decided as yet.

The administration is developing analytics to better track and predict student retention. This system has the potential to allow faculty to be more active in monitoring student’s success.

**Rosanne Palacios**

The Go Beyond campaign recently concluded with over 260 contributors, nearly 40% of the campus community.

Penny days are planned again for October 30 to November 3. This year this effort will fund the FPA program and engineering students who will attend a robotics competition.

The TAMIU Alumni Association offered $6,000 in graduate scholarships and gave out its first Golden Circle Scholarship.

The Rhapsody on the Rio Grande program is now available from PBS on-line nationwide.

**Gilbert Zimmermann**

Updated the council on where the various TAMIU teams rate within the standings.

Maroon Madness is on October 18. The party will begin at 6 pm.

**Juan Castillo**

Two Student Fee hearings are scheduled for this week. Proposed is a 3.7% increase in tuition and fees which keeps up with the higher education inflation rate. Also, a proposed increase in the health fee of $4.60 has been suggested.