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 discussion of those items.

**State of 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 meeting that will be held tomorrow. Dr. Keck informed the Council that he would be testifying before the committee tomorrow. At that time, he will be presenting all budget requests for the coming biennium to the committee. 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. The president stated that Ms. Martha Olivos-Gonzalez would now be serving in the position of human resources director while Mrs. Sandra V. Pena would 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 positions was the direct result of SACS COC requirements and expectations.

**Update on Texas Academy of International and STEM Studies**
The meeting continued with a presentation by Dr. Patricia Uribe and Ms. Naiely Martinez regarding the completion of the school’s first semester of operation. Dr. Uribe shared with the Council a video presentation depicting the students enrolled in the Academy engaged in many on-campus academic activities and displaying the success of the school’s first semester. Dr. Uribe provided several data that reflected 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 Sauceda, a first year Academy studies who was highly successful during her first year of enrollment. Angie stated that the students’ transition from a traditional high school campus setting to a four-year university setting has been academic challenging for all students. The student 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 on 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 recruitment program. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the TAMIU campus.

Several of the goals of this 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, study 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.

To date, Gina informed the Council that 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 be of interest to future students of this university. All faculty are highly encouraged to participate as this provides us with an opportunity to connect our work not only with the external community but also helps to provide interest and motivation for Texas public school students considering higher education after graduation. For details, faculty are asked to contact Ms. Gina Gonzalez, associate vice-president for student success.

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 during the week of February 09-13. 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 serving as the closing event for Consent Week events.