The President’s Executive Council (EC) met on Monday, April 06, 2015, to discuss a series of agenda items impacting our university (see attachment A). The following is a summary of the discussion of those items.

**Reading the Globe Presentation**
The meeting began with a very illuminating presentation by a representative group of students who recently returned from traveling to Bosnia-Herzegovina located in Southeastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula. The students who presented were Nadia Tabbara, Julian Quesada, Yesenia Garner, Sergio Barragan, and Andres Marcos. These students were part of the group who were selected to travel to Bosnia after reading *The River Runs Salt, Runs Sweet: A Memoir of Visegrad Bosnia*. In keeping with tradition, these students will present at Freshmen Convocation in September.

**Office of Communications**
Mr. Steven Harmon showed two new video productions that have been recently completed by Mr. Rolando Santos, the communications department new videographer. Mr. Harmon explained that in order to achieve the highest quality video productions such as the ones he previewed at the meeting that can be used for multiple purposes, including marketing, it can take up to 18 hours of editing to complete them. As such, he asked that deans and department heads interested in these types of video productions contact his office to carefully discuss the proposed projects. His office is interested in proposals for the development of new university video productions highlighting current events.

**University Update**
The meeting continued with a university update offered by the president.

**Celebration of Life**
As previously reported on Executive Council Meeting Notes, the Celebration of Life Ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 07, 2015.

**University Strategic Planning Committee Meeting**
The strategic planning retreat scheduled to be held this Saturday has been postponed as the Strategic Planning Committee is currently meeting with university constituent groups in an effort to collect data that will be used to further develop the university’s priorities, aspirations, goals, etc. Once these data collection efforts are complete, a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be held to review, revise, and propose a final plan for consideration for adoption.

**Spring 2015 Commencement**
As reported by the Texas Tribune, The Laredo Morning Times, and the Bridge, Senator Ted Cruz will not be serving as this year’s Spring 2015 Commencement Speaker. As such, summer graduation ceremonies will be held as previously anticipated (see attachment B). These will be scheduled as follows:
Ceremony # 1 Friday, May 22nd at 10:00 a.m. COAS Undergraduates

Ceremony # 2 Friday, May 22nd at 2:00 p.m. ARSSB Undergraduates and Graduates
COAS Graduates

Ceremony # 3 Friday, May 22nd at 6:00 p.m. COED Undergraduates and Graduates
CNHS All

**Enrollment**
Mr. Juan Garcia, registrar, presented the latest enrollment counts (see attachment C).

**Early College High School in Freer, Texas**
The president, provost and associate provost announced that, last Thursday, the university administration and the public school administration from the Freer Independent School District (FISD) met with Freer ISD parents to announce a partnership between TAMIU and FISD that will begin this fall semester. Freer ISD will be starting an Early College High School this fall, and the school district will be busing approximately 67 students from Freer to Laredo so that students enrolled can attend university courses held in the fall. These 67 students represent the entire Fall 2015 Freer ISD freshmen class.

The agreement is seen as a positive initiative that will be a benefit for our neighboring community of Freer and its citizens as well as the public school students who attend FISD schools. The Freer ISD administration and their respective school board were recognized for their leadership in facilitating such an agreement.

**SACSCOC**
Mrs. Mary Trevino provided a follow up to the SACSCOC visit and all of the current activities that their department is engaged with in response to the four recommendations made by the accreditation committee. Veronica Martinez also provided a brief overview of their office’s current efforts to complete the 2014-2015 Annual Institutional Effectiveness Reports (AIER).

Each academic program now will have a designated program coordinator that will need to complete the attached form and who will be designated as the person responsible for ensuring that efforts related to the AIER are completed annually (see attachment D).

**Fire Drills**
Mr. Juan Castillo reminded everyone that physical plant personnel will be conducting tests of the fire emergency system every Tuesday during the month of April. It is expected that these drills should not last any longer than 20 minutes. Everyone is expected to comply with the drill procedures and no classes should be cancelled as a result of the drills.

**LBV Conference**
The provost provided a brief summary of this year’s LBV Conference. The conference was a great success with the grand prize awarded to a student in the department of the fine and performing arts. It was reported that the student research conference grows every academic year, both in quality and quantity.
**Technology Innovation in Teaching Award**
Dr. Leebrian Gaskins announced that Dr. Whitney Bischoff from the Canseco School of Nursing was the recent recipient of a state award for the successful and effective integration and utilization of technology in teaching. Everyone in the EC acknowledged that Dr. Bischoff has been considered one of the leaders on campus in the successful integration of technology in university teaching.

**Representative Henry Cuellar Visit**
The president announced that Dr. Henry Cuellar would be on campus on Monday to facilitate the signing of an agreement that would allow the establishment of collaborative educational programs between TAMIU and Azerbaijan.

**Taking Back the Night**
The meeting ended with the announcement that TAMIU will hold the very first Taking Back the Night Program. This program is designed to bring sexual assault awareness to the university community and will be held on Thursday, April 09 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Green between the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts and the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Building.

With that announcement, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.