The president’s executive council met on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the President’s Conference Room to discuss a set of agenda items and events impacting our university. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Graduation Events—Ms. Mary Treviño
The meeting began with Ms. Treviño providing a summary of the upcoming graduation events and the number of graduates for each college. The following three graduations are scheduled on Saturday, May 18, 2013: (a) the College of Arts and Sciences is scheduled at 9:00 a.m.; (b) the A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is scheduled at 1:00 p.m.; and (c) the College of Education is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The total number of graduates this 2013 Spring Semester is 555. The College of Arts and Sciences represents the largest group with 260 graduates. Education will be graduating 138 students, and business and nursing will graduate a total of 157 candidates.

Registrar’s Office—Dr. Minita Ramirez and Mrs. Gina Gonzalez
Dr. Ramirez provided an update on the search for the university registrar as well as the upcoming events that will be impacting that office in the coming days. First, Dr. Ramirez explained that last Friday (May 10, 2013) was Mr. Oscar Reyna’s last day as Registrar. He has left to take a position as Registrar with Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. Dr. Ramirez stated that in Oscar’s absence both Gina Gonzalez and she will be responsible for administering the end of semester grade submission process. Since this will be their first time performing the task, they asked if I could please remind all faculty of the importance of submitting grades on time so that their office can ensure the timely rollover of all data. Additionally, Dr. Ramirez explained that the position of university registrar has been posted for about two weeks and that so far the university has received about five applications. It was stated that the position will remain posted for a longer period in order to ensure a healthy applicant pool with the hope that we can attract someone with experience in the position. Otherwise, other options will be explored.

Athletic Director Search Process—Dr. Ray Keck
Dr. Keck took a moment to briefly thank Mr. Juan Castillo for chairing the committee that has conducted the search for the next University Athletics Director. He shared that the committee has completed the interview of three potential candidates and that the committee is now moving forward with a lone finalist who will be recommend to the president for his consideration.

TAMIU Marketing and Branding—Dr. Ray Keck
Dr. Keck shared that at a recent visit he made to Rice University several people mistook our university acronym—TAMIU—with that of Texas A&M University, i.e.,—TAMU. He asked Mr. Steve Harmon to explore the possibility of making the “I” in TAMIU a more prominent part of our logo and acronym to highlight our unique position in the A&M System.

Legislative Update—Dr. Ray Keck and Ms. Juanita Solis
Dr. Keck mentioned that TAMIU’s legislative liaison, Mr. Ray Martinez, would be visiting campus next week and meeting with the executive council to provide an update on the ongoing legislative session. Brief mention was made about possible Tuition Revenue Bond (TRB) money that may be allocated to TAMIU as well as a request for matching funds in the amount of two million dollars for our Petroleum Engineering Program. No allocations have been made final. All requests are still being considered.

**Course Fees, Newspaper Article, and A&M Board of Regents—Mr. Juan Castillo**
The Laredo Morning Times recently published an article that highlighted Texas A&M University System auditors’ finding discrepancies with approximately 9,000 course fees at Texas A&M University College Station and the Board of Regents’ disapproval of the management or lack thereof of the process for approving and administering these fees. Mr. Castillo stated that TAMIU is in a good position regarding course fees because we no longer assess course fees. However, we do assess lab fees for science courses and an Institutional Enhancement fee, which is charged by each college and each college determines how the funds generated will be used.

**TAMIU Golf Team—Ms. Candy Hein**
Ms. Hein recognized the TAMIU Golf Team’s efforts this past weekend as they participated at a gold tournament for Hispanic serving institutions in Florida. They placed as runner-ups at the tournament.

**Scholarships for Summer, M&O Funds and Enrollment—Dr. Minita Ramirez**
Dr. Ramirez shared that enrollment for the summer remains lower than last year’s summer enrollment at this same time. However, she stated that the enrollment is still fluid as students continue to enroll. She explained that fall enrollment is slightly higher than last year at this time, and the number of fall applicants is higher than last year as well; consequently, there is some optimism for fall enrollment. Dr. Ramirez also reported that individual department and college M&O Funds may be used to award student scholarships if needed, especially during the summer months when students sometimes do not enroll because of financial constraints. However, she did provide a caveat that awarding of these student scholarships must go through the university approved process.

**Retention Rates for Freshmen and Sophomores—Dr. Conchita Hickey**
Dr. Hickey stated that because of the efforts of key personnel in the Advising and Mentoring Center our freshmen retention rate currently sits at 78% and our sophomore retention rate is at 70%. This is considered to be a significant outcome with the possibility for these rates to go higher since the Office of Advising and Mentoring continues to track these students.

**TAMIU Graduate Recognition—Dr. Minita Ramirez**
Dr. Ramirez recognized one of our students, Ms. Stephanie Martinez, who recently served as an intern in the Obama re-election campaign. Stephanie has now been selected to participate in the Teach for America organization which accepts only 11% of all applicants. This is considered to be a great honor for both Stephanie and speaks highly of the quality of education that is provided by our faculty to our graduates.
**Library Holds—Dr. LeeBrian Gaskins**
Dr. Gaskins explained that library holds do not and should not prevent any student from registering. They only hold a student back from graduating or securing a transcript, or other similar types of services. There appears to be a perception among some students and others that library holds prevent students from registering. Faculty advisors can help address this issue by making sure to inform their students that library holds will not prevent them from registering. Perhaps we can get some more students to register who have not done so simply because of the perception that all holds prevent them from registering.

**College of Education Child Development Degree Initiative with LCC—Dr. Catheryn Weitman**
Dr. Weitman briefly shared with the group that the College of Education is exploring a new degree possibility in Early Childhood Development with the Laredo Community College.

**SACS Report—Ms. Mary Treviño**
Ms. Treviño asked the deans of each of the colleges who are accredited by multiple external agencies to submit the most recent copies of the external agency’s reports, if any have been issued, for inclusion in the updates that she has to submit for SACS. She further stated that any external agency’s reports regarding individual colleges must be submitted to her office so that she can keep all SACS data updated.

**Higher Education in the Digital Age by William G. Bowen—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck expressed the need for him as the leader of the University to open up a very important dialogue and elevate the level of the discourse with regard to the impact that technology is having on institutions of higher education. To begin this process, he shared his recent read of the book by William G. Bowen, *Higher Education in the Digital Age*. He told the executive council that his office has ordered copies of the book for council members, but most importantly, for each member of the Faculty Senate. With the aid of this resource, Dr. Keck would like to engage faculty in the coming academic year in a conversation about the future of TAMU’s teaching environment and how we may make teaching spaces, when possible, reflective of current technological pedagogical practices.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.