EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
May 19, 2014

The president’s executive council met on Monday to discuss a series of agenda items impacting our university. The following is a summary of the discussion of those items.

**Commencement—Dr. Keck**
The meeting began with a recap of the graduation ceremonies held last Saturday, May 17, 2014. Dr. Keck shared with the council that he had the opportunity to visit with Regent Charles W. Schwartz, our commencement speaker, the evening prior to graduation. Regent Schwartz expressed his gratitude for being invited to deliver the commencement speeches. Dr. Keck shared that Regent Schwartz and his wife were very impressed with the high degree of organization and the care that is taken by all of the staff who organize and ensure that the ceremonies are successful.

The discussion continued with a review of the processes that are in place to select the student scholars and respondents who offer congratulatory remarks on behalf of each of the graduation classes. To ensure greater uniformity in the process, it was suggested that the deans for each of the colleges consider adopting and using a process that is similar to that of the College of Arts and Sciences. This is perceived to be a comprehensive process that leads to the selection of student respondents who display a great degree of fidelity to the spirit and intent of the speech making and delivery process.

Dr. Minita Ramirez also expressed her appreciation and thanked all the staff from the TAMIU Physical Plant for all of their hard work on the set up and tear down of the stage, bleachers, chairs, mats, etc. used during the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Ramirez explained that the Physical Plant operates with such efficiency and effectiveness that they completed the removal of all furniture in about 30 minutes after graduation.

Finally, the last segment of this item involved an explanation by Dr. Keck and Dr. Arenaz regarding grade point average (GPA) calculations for graduating seniors. Approximately one week before commencement, several students in the College of Education met with the college administration and the provost requesting consideration be given to the GPA that they would most likely earn at the end of the term but that is not considered when determining eligibility to walk the stage with the honors’ recognition. The students argued that if the GPA earned at the end of the spring semester would have been considered for graduation ceremony recognition, they would have been eligible to graduate and be recognized at commencement with such distinctions.

For these reasons, Dr. Arenaz explained that the academic calendar for the upcoming fall semester would be moved up a day to allow for an additional day at the end of the semester for the Registrar’s Office to calculate GPAs and allow students the full benefit of being recognized with honor distinctions at commencement exercises if they have earned it.

**August Graduation—Dr. Keck**
The meeting continued with a brief announcement and some discussion about the administration’s decision to hold one graduation ceremony at the end of the Summer 2014 term. Dr. Keck has sent an email to the TAMIU community informing all of the details regarding this decision. Please refer to that email for details. Additional information for that graduation will be sent as we approach the date in mid-August.

**Dr. Michael T. Hoefer—Dr. Keck**
The meeting continued with the announce that Dr. Michael T. Hoefer, a vice president with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Commission on Schools (SACSCOC) will be present on campus to meet with members of the accreditation and re-affirmation team on Monday, August 04, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. The president explained that an invitation had been extended to Dr. Hoefer, and he accepted to visit the campus in anticipation of our re-affirmation process. This visit will give both the reviewer and the team an opportunity to review the details regarding the intricacies of that process.

**Administrative Retreat—Dr. Keck**
Dr. Keck reviewed the date set for the annual executive council and administrators’ summer academic retreat. The president has asked the executive council members to read two books in preparation for this summer meeting. The book titles are *Artificial Intelligence and the end of the Human Era: Our Final Invention* by James Barrat and *Abundance: The Future is Better than you Think* by Peter H. Diamandis and Steven Kotler.

**Recent Graduate and Employment Data—Ms. Cassandra Wheeler and Mrs. Candy Hein**
Cassandra Wheeler, executive director for the Office of Career Services, presented quantitative data regarding the gainful employment and placement rates for recent graduates from the university. Please see the attached report. Some recommendations were made to Cassandra regarding the use of average salary data versus median salary data as had been previously recommended by the Faculty Senate membership.

**Student Enrollment—Dr. Minita Ramirez**
As we approached the end of the meeting, Dr. Ramirez presented her weekly report regarding the most current student enrollment data. Please see attached report. While it is still too early to confirm final summer and fall enrollment numbers, there is some concern regarding fall enrollment rates. Dr. Keck reinforced to the college deans the importance of using college, department, unit, and program organizational structures to ensure that the organization is reaching out to all students in an effort to facilitate the enrollment process.

**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)—Dr. Kevin Lindberg**
The meeting ended with Dr. Lindberg announcing the results of the recent faculty, staff, and student election regarding the adoption of the next generation of the university’s QEP. Kevin explained that the concept of critical thinking was the clear choice in the election, and the process now continues to operationalize it.

With that, the meeting ended. The President’s Executive Council will meet next on Monday, June 02nd. I will send those meeting notes to faculty on behalf of the Faculty Senate.
Respectfully,
Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.