The President’s Executive Council met yesterday to discuss a series of agenda items (see attachment A) impacting our university. The following is a summary of the discussion of those items.

Submission of SACS COC Reaffirmation Report—Mrs. Mary Treviño
The meeting began with a somewhat emotional announcement by several of the administrators and additional personnel who worked on the completion and submission of the SACS COC reaffirmation report. Mrs. Treviño provided a hardbound copy of the report to the university president, and she thanked everyone who participated in this major undertaking. The bounded hardcopy totaled a bit over 300 pages of narrative text to answer or respond to a substantial number of SACS standards for reaffirmation. Mrs. Trevino thanked Mr. Mario Pena, Mr. Rory King, Ms. Veronica Martinez, and Dr. Kevin Lindberg for all their work in completing the report. The hardcopy report was submitted yesterday morning at 9:00 a.m. through Federal Express with additional copies submitted in electronic formats.

The SACS COC representatives selected to serve as reviewers for our university’s reaffirmation process will now have until November to review the submission. In early November, the committee will meet in Atlanta, Georgia at the SACS COC headquarters to generate a follow-up report. Depending on what information is reflected on the response, TAMIU administrators will then have an opportunity to provide a response in preparation for the Spring 2015 SACS COC on-site visit which will represent one of the final steps in the reaffirmation process.

Dr. Keck thanked everyone involved with the development and completion of the report, and he equally congratulated them for completing it.

Freshmen Convocation—Dr. Ray M. Keck, III
The meeting continued with some thoughts regarding Freshmen Convocation. The president perceived, in general, the event to be a success and thanked everyone who organized it. However, Dr. Keck was also a bit disturbed by the fact that approximately 20 minutes after the event started a significant number of students began to make their way out of the convocation and appeared to be headed to class. While no one in the Council could confirm whether or not students were leaving to attend class, the president stated emphatically that it was not acceptable if freshmen students were not excused from class to attend Freshmen Convocation. Dr. Keck asked all deans to work with department chairs in informing all faculty teaching freshmen students to plan to make course accommodations for next year’s Freshmen Convocation. These accommodations could take many forms including, but not limited to, delaying the start times and holding shortened class meetings only on this day because of this event.

Board of Regents’ (BOR) Meeting—Dr. Ray M. Keck, III
The president provided a brief summary of last week’s BOR meeting in College Station. Dr. Keck informed the Council that one important announcement made at the meeting was that Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier was appointed by the chancellor to assume a new role with the Texas A&M University System. Dr. Ferrier will complete her tenure as president of Texas A&M
University San Antonio at the end of this year. In January 2015, she will begin serving in a new role as director of development and Mexico relations.

Dr. Keck also informed the Council that the BOR meeting dealt with typical quarterly board matters. No news is good news!

**Friday Afternoon Socials—Mrs. Candy Hein and Dr. Keck**

As the start of the new academic year has taken place, many, if not all, have reported very positive perceptions of the energy that the 34 new faculty have brought to the organization this year. Likewise, the new faculty reported enjoying the opportunity that they had to meet and socialize with returning faculty at the annual Fall Faculty Mixer. For these reasons, the administration has decided to organize several Friday Afternoon Socials between now and the end of the Fall 2014 Semester. Dr. Keck explained that this was a tradition at TAMIU, but for some reason, approximately 12 to 13 years ago, it simply stopped.

Mrs. Hein’s office will be responsible for organizing the next several Friday Socials. A brief discussion focused on whether to have them at the same location or hold them at different locations to give new faculty an opportunity to enjoy the different facilities. It was agreed that they would be held at different parts of the university with announcements preceding the events.

**Safe Zones and Green Dot Programs—Mr. Jerry Alva**

Mr. Alva informed the Council that beginning this fall, the Division of Student Success will be implementing two new programs that are set to take place in the next few days. First, the Safe Zones Program is a, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) community awareness and ally network on campus. Safe Zone workshops are opportunities for educators, staff, community members and students to become more aware of issues facing the LGBTQ community. The program contact is Teresa Renn, outreach and retention specialist for the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement.”

Secondly, the Green Dot Bystander Program, “is a bystander intervention program to reduce power-based violence in the community. It offers a comprehensive approach to violence prevention and is directed by Mayra Hernandez, director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement.”

**Flu Vaccines—Mrs. Candy Hein**

Mrs. Hein reported to the Council that 110 faculty took advantage of the opportunity to get vaccinated with the flu vaccine that was offered immediately following Freshmen Convocation. Additional dates are currently being negotiated to give faculty who were interested but were not able to get the vaccine this past Friday. Those dates are forthcoming.

**The Great TAMIU Stampede—Mrs. Candy Hein**

Mrs. Hein reported that since the start of The Great TAMIU Stampede Fundraising Campaign, $16,475.00 in total has been raised. The response has been very positive and the donations have gotten the university off to a great start. Mrs. Hein reminded everyone to continue to promote the goal of reaching the matching funds for the Title V Grant.
HIPAA and FERPA Presentations—Mrs. Lisa Paul
A group of attorneys from the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) will be on campus on Monday, September 22, and Tuesday, September 23 to conduct legal presentations on the Federal Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Title IX. Lisa sent an email with the details for the presentations to all deans and department heads. Likewise, I forwarded that email to the Faculty Senate members so that they can share it with the faculty in their respective departments.

Enrollment—Dr. Minita Ramírez
The meeting ended with a somewhat extensive dialogue about the current enrollment figures (see attachment B). While the enrollment as a whole is up, several specific enrollment constituencies are down. The Council discussed possible explanations for these drops. Dr. Keck shared with the members that, reflected on the enrollment reports of several universities at last week’s BOR meeting, universities such as Kingsville, West Texas, and Commerce reported enrollment increases in the six (6) to seven (7) percent range. As such, he asked Dr. Ramirez and others to try to determine what those universities, that are similar in size and population, are doing to increase their enrollment to those degrees.

Also, Mrs. Gina González added that currently 286 students have not paid, 59 students have partially paid, and 375 students have financial aid payments pending. Depending on the final outcome of these students’ payments, our final enrollment figures would need to be adjusted to reflect these numbers.

Computer Refresh—Dr. Leebrian Gaskins
Dr. Gaskins reminded all deans and department heads that the deadline to submit computer refresh requests is this Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

With that announcement, the meeting ended.

Alfredo Ramírez, Jr.