The president’s executive council met this morning to discuss a series of agenda items impacting our university. The following is a summary of that meeting.

**Mark Mathabane Common Read Event—Dr. Conchita Hickey**
The meeting began with a summary of recent events regarding TAMIU’s common read initiative. This year, the committee responsible for this event selected Mark Mathabane’s book, *Kaffir Boy*. The author was present on campus this past Friday, October 11, 2013, to speak with TAMIU students and the larger TAMIU Community. Dr. Hickey reported that the event was a success with many people participating. The author was also very impressed with the TAMIU community and was very complimentary towards the students, the Laredo community, the international focus of the university, and common read initiative. Dr. Hickey complimented Dr. Haley Kazen and the committee that was responsible for this event and the selection of the book.

A separate event was also hosted by the TAMIU Library staff for students from United South High School on Saturday that was also a success and gave greater exposure of the common read initiative to public education students in Laredo.

**Commissioner of Higher Education Visit—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck announced that Dr. Raymond Paredes, Commissioner for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is scheduled to visit TAMIU on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. Dr. Keck explained that through a recent email exchange, the president asked the commissioner his thoughts about current events rapidly unfolding in the area of competency-based education in higher education settings and the impact that this movement is or may be having in higher education. He also mentioned that he asked Dr. Paredes’s thoughts regarding what the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may be considering in terms of policy proposal’s to meet the goals of competency-based education. In that exchange, Dr. Paredes offered to visit TAMIU and meet with those interested stakeholders that may have questions regarding competency-based education. Dr. Keck stated that his office would be developing an itinerary for Dr. Paredes’s visit that would include visits with the president’s executive council members, the college deans, and possibly the faculty senate.

**Shannon K. O’Neil Visit, Two Nations Indivisible—Dr. Steve Sears**
Dr. Sears provided a reminder that this Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in Student Center (SC) Ballroom 203, the International Bank of Commerce 2013-2014 Keynote Speaker Series and the A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business will be hosting Dr. Shannon K. O’Neil, author of *Two Nations Indivisible: Mexico, the United States, and the Road Ahead*. Dr. Sears explained that Dr. O’Neil is a highly sought guest speaker and that the administration of IBC worked very hard to be able to get Dr. O’Neil to visit Laredo to present her latest book. The book is available at the TAMIU Bookstore.

**College Night—Mrs. Gina Gonzalez**
Ms. Gina Gonzalez provided a reminder that also on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, the Office of Registrar would be hosting its annual College Night that is part of the Texas Association of
University Registrar’s. It is anticipated that many would be attending this event. Because of several events occurring on this evening, it is anticipated that the university would be more busy than usual this Wednesday evening.

**Maroon Madness—Mr. Griz Zimmermann**
The director of athletics, Mr. Griz Zimmermann, announced that the athletics department has organized Maroon Madness Night on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 8:30 p.m. to take place in KCB. Several events will be taking place for students with a grand prize of one student winning free tuition for the 2013-2014 school year. For details, contact the Office of Athletics.

**Asian Night—Mrs. Candy Hein**
Candy Hein informed that executive council members that on Saturday, October 26, 2013, the organization that hosts the annual Asian Night has provided a table for TAMIU representatives to attend this event. Ms. Hein asked the executive council members who may interested in attending to let her know as her office staff needs to plan accordingly as another event will also be taking place in the near future that has been organized by State of Texas Representative Richard Raymond. TAMIU representatives will also need to have a group present for that event.

**Office of Graduate Studies—Dr. Jeff Brown**
Dr. Jeff Brown offered a very thorough PowerPoint presentation that I have attached to these notes for your review. Dr. Brown’s presentation offered data regarding the return on investment of four different types of research grant initiatives that over the last several years have started to show some very significant return on the investment that has been made by the university, the Office of Graduate Studies and the Provost’s Office. Please see the attached PowerPoint for more information, and faculty should feel free to contact Dr. Brown’s Office with questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Alfredo