**11/13/17**

**TAMIU Executive Council**

**Pablo Arenaz**

The PBS program Rhapsody on the Rio Grande won a Texas Emmy. This award should justify the investment made by the City of Laredo in this project. Dennis Nixon has sent 15 copies of the program to various congressman.

This Thursday (11/16/2017) there will be the Topping Off Ceremony for the new building. Two Texas A&M System Regents are planning to attend as is the Chancellor. Other notables include Texas Senator Zaffrini and Texas Representative Richard Raymond. There will be seats for 120 for faculty and staff.

Other announcements (see attachment) include that this Wednesday (11/15/17) will be the second Presidential Lecture given by Mark Lilla. Also, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving will be the next talk in the IBC Keynote series. After additional discussions, it was discovered that there is a conflict for one of these events. Dr. Arenaz asked if we could do better in scheduling in the future.

Dr. Arenaz attended a MOU signing at LCC last Friday and Saturday (11/10 and 11). The goal of this initiative is to improve enrollment and retention of male students of color in college.

Dr. Arenaz asked for all departments to make a report on the status of their curriculum changes, particularly focusing on aligning core courses with the Texas Common core and examining pre-requisites for upper level courses.

When passwords time-out all will be required to enter a 16-character password. This will be good for two years. If we go to two factor authentication then the length of time a password remains valid might be extended.

**Catheryn Weitman**

Dean Weitman announced that 918 students registered for signature courses and there remains 332 openings. She noted that one class filled within an hour after registration opened.

**Minita Ramirez**

Last weekend (11/11 and 12) TAMIU hosted a preview day. This event attracted 4 full buses of students from McAllen and Harlingen and was considered a success. Additional preview days are planned.

The enrollment numbers for Spring 2018 semester are up over this time last year (see attachment). But it was stressed that it still is very early in the process.

Advisors in COAS are doing a good job. There are some issues in some of the other units. A discussion followed about empowering advisors to have the ability to remove holds on classes. Apparently, a lot of students still have to go back to the registrar to have their holds lifted and this should be done within each college.

TAMIU has a new Veterans advisor (Joe Garza). Many students who formerly served in the Armed Forces are not taking advantage of all the benefits available to them.

**Rosanne Palacios**

On November 29, there will be Music on the Menu benefit event. This concert will have a holiday theme and will be used as a fund raiser for the TAMIU Food Pantry.

On November 28, Giving Tuesday is planned which will be a campus wide fund raising using mostly social media as a platform.

Finally, in the Zaffrini Student Center there is a Holocaust Exhibit now displayed.

**Gilbert Zimmermann**

One of our Cross-Country Student Athletes (Rebekah Hernandez) has the potential to become an All-American if she places well at the NCAA Women’s Cross Country national championship this weekend.

Women’s home opener in Basketball is this Saturday (11/18/17) at 2 pm. Note that all games now stream for free on-line.

The early signing period concluded with a total of 17 offers made.