Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Texas A&M International University
August 31, 2026, | 1:00 p.m. | KL 270

Attendance

Members present included Executive Council representatives and delegates as listed on the agenda. Noted absences included A. González, A. LaPlant, and M.R. Palacios; delegate attendance included L. Cortez.

President's Updates

President Christopher Maynard welcomed members to the start of the Fall 2026 semester and thanked faculty and staff for their efforts in making the first week of classes and student activities successful. He noted the strong campus energy and participation during opening week events.

The President announced that he, Dr. Lee Banda, and the Provost would attend the upcoming Texas A&M System Board of Regents meeting in College Station. He reminded members that Board of Regents meetings are livestreamed and encouraged campus community members to review the agendas and reach out with questions.

President Maynard also reported that interviews with athletic director finalists would take place the following week and thanked all involved in coordinating the campus visits.

Additionally, he announced that he will provide testimony before the Legislative Budget Board on September 25, 2026. Preparation efforts are underway with assistance from the Texas A&M System Government Relations team and university administration. The testimony will include participation from all Texas A&M System institutions and agencies.

Academic Affairs

Provost **Claudia San Miguel** thanked the deans and faculty for their visibility and engagement with students during the first week of classes.

Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, announced that TAMIU received another grant through the Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program.

Funding will support a large-scale mass-casualty simulation exercise involving students from multiple colleges and partnerships with local and regional emergency response agencies.

Dr. James O'Meara, Dean of Global and Community Engagement, highlighted the establishment of **IROC (International Relations Organization on Campus)**, a new student organization focused on experiential learning in international relations. The organization seeks broad interdisciplinary participation and will collaborate with the Student Government Association, faculty, international visitors, and diplomatic representatives.

Upcoming initiatives include:

- Diplomatic career discussions with representatives from the U.S. Consulate.
- Career readiness opportunities through the Monterrey Binational Center.
- Constitution Day programming featuring guest speaker Denise Kirkpatrick.
- Opportunities for student engagement with international affairs professionals.

The provost emphasized TAMIU's unique role as a border institution where students experience international relations firsthand.

Dr. Marcus Ynalvez, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, reported on the successful opening of "The Right of the Dream" exhibit, featuring Laredo native and New Orleans-based artist **Josephine Sacabo**.

Highlights included:

- A public interview conducted by Dr. Jesse Shaw.
- A well-attended opening reception hosted by university leadership.
- Strong community participation and engagement.
- The exhibit will remain on display through October 9, 2026.

Council members noted the event's positive impact in strengthening community engagement and showcasing local artistic talent.

Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, Dean for the College of Education, announced preparations for the **6th Annual South Texas Bilingual Education Conference**, scheduled for September 12.

Conference highlights include:

- Approximately 410 participants expected.
- Representation from local and regional school districts.

- Thirty breakout sessions featuring university faculty and education professionals.
- Eleven financial sponsors, ten community partners, and fifteen vendors.
- Recognition of Teachers of the Year and award recipients.
- Planned distribution of five $1,000 graduate scholarships for students enrolled in the Master of Science in Bilingual Education program.

This year's keynote speaker will be **Dr. Sasha Rocha**, Director for Bilingual and Dual Language Education at the Texas Education Agency.

Dr. Luis Perez-Bartez, Dean of the A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business, reported the success of student **Diego Reyna**, President of the TAMIU Investment Society, who secured a competitive internship with Cemex as a financial analyst.

The internship selection process included students from nationally and internationally recognized institutions, highlighting the quality and competitiveness of TAMIU students.

The Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) position has been posted, and recruitment efforts are underway.

Strategic Enrollment Management

Vice President **Juan Garcia, Jr**., provided a comprehensive enrollment update.

Enrollment

- Fall 2026 enrollment has moved from a deficit projection to a gain of slightly over 100 students compared to the same period last year.
- Freshman enrollment is projected to remain near 1,400 students despite a slight year-over-year decrease.
- The university implemented earlier interventions and removal procedures for applicants demonstrating prolonged non-engagement.

Retention and Graduation

- TAMIU awarded 2,332 degrees during the previous academic year, with three additional students pending final clearance.
- This represents approximately a 10% increase over the previous year.
- Time-to-degree metrics continue to improve.

- The university is graduating students at a faster rate, creating urgency around enrollment-growth initiatives.

Council members recognized that enrollment growth and graduation success place TAMIU in a favorable position as it enters the next legislative session.

Faculty Roster Certification

Members were reminded of the importance of accurately certifying class rosters and attendance data. Accurate reporting supports:

- Financial aid compliance.
- State and federal audits.
- Enrollment reporting.
- Institutional accountability.

Student Engagement

Vice President **Rosalinda Garcia** reported that student support services, emergency grants, food pantry operations, and Welcome Week activities are fully operational.

Student Programming

- More than 1,200 students attended the CapChella event, demonstrating strong student engagement.
- Mental Health Awareness Week activities are scheduled for the following week.
- A presentation titled **"What We Learned About the Incoming Class"** will be held on September 10 to provide insights into incoming student characteristics and engagement strategies.

Community Partnerships

The division will host a Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony with community organizations that provide work-study placements for TAMIU students.

Better Conversations, Better Communities

TAMIU will participate in the Texas A&M System initiative promoting civil discourse and community engagement.

Student Center Update

The Dean of Students office has relocated to STC 118. A newly available conference room in STC 119 may be reserved by campus departments.

Institutional Advancement

Vice President **J. Zambrano** provided an update on preparations for the Presidential Investiture.

Investiture Update

- Approximately 19-20 sponsorship tables have been committed.
- More than $164,000 has been pledged, including a planned $100,000 endowment contribution.
- Attendance is expected from local, state, and national supporters.
- Alternative accommodations are being prepared should attendance exceed the current venue capacity.

Marketing and Branding

Institutional Advancement is coordinating promotional opportunities with local media outlets and conducting a comprehensive brand audit focused on messaging enhancement and market expansion. University logos and seals will remain unchanged.

Athletics

Interim Athletic Director **Henry Miller** reported significant progress on facilities projects.

Facilities

- Construction on the north entrance pathway to athletic facilities is substantially complete.
- New lighting projects for baseball, softball, and soccer facilities continue on schedule.
- Enhanced campus access will improve attendance and accessibility for athletic events.

Upcoming Events

- TAMIU will host approximately 800 participants for the upcoming Cross Country Invitational.
- Volleyball begins home competition this week.

- Soccer teams continue conference play.

Director Miller also announced that longtime coach **Libby** would complete his final day of service after 18 years with the university.

President Maynard shared positive feedback from visiting coaches who praised the beauty of the TAMIU campus.

Staff Senate

Mary Carmen Salinas reported:

- The first Staff Senate meeting will be held September 22 in AIC 126 with President Maynard serving as guest speaker.
- A staff line-dancing social event is scheduled for September 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in ZSC 101.

Faculty Advisory Council

George Clarke announced:

- The first Faculty Advisory Council meeting of the academic year will be held on Friday from noon to 3:00 p.m. in STC 231.
- Due to revised term limits, FAC has experienced significant membership turnover and is working to orient new members and committee participants.

Student Government Association

Student Body President **David Sosa** reported:

Student Government

- The August leadership retreat achieved record attendance.
- SGA currently has its largest membership in university history, with approximately 60 members participating across committees.

Student Activities

Upcoming events include:

- Buddy Wheel Giveaway.
- Meet the Student Body President and Vice President event.
- All-Majors Networking Event on September 15.

Campus Safety

SGA leadership met with University Police regarding campus safety initiatives and Flock camera technology. Additional student information sessions and educational workshops are planned.

Student Leadership Development

Student leaders continue to mentor and recruit new student participants, particularly first-year students interested in campus leadership opportunities.

Open Floor

President Maynard reminded council members that Labor Day will be observed on September 7 and encouraged participation in the many university activities planned throughout the coming weeks. The Executive Council will receive an update following the Board of Regents meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the successful start of the semester and recognition of the significant efforts by faculty, staff, and administrators across the university.