# Executive Council Meeting Minutes

**Texas A&M International University**
**September 21, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. | KL 270**

# President's Updates

President **Christopher Maynard** opened the meeting by thanking the university community for its efforts in planning and executing the Investiture Week events. He noted that numerous guests, including visitors from Italy and representatives of the Texas A&M System, expressed strong positive feedback about the university, the quality of the events, and the hospitality provided. Special recognition was given to the Provost for her leadership during the investiture ceremony. The President emphasized the importance of maintaining the momentum and visibility generated by the week's activities.

**Campus Transportation Initiative**

The President reported that a student recently raised concerns regarding overcrowding on a morning bus route serving the campus. In response, university staff worked with El Metro to address the issue. Beginning immediately and continuing through December 31, El Metro will add a second Route 16 bus at 7:15 a.m. to supplement the existing 7:00 a.m. service. The university will monitor usage and continue seeking solutions to improve student access to campus while pursuing longer-term housing expansion efforts.

**Legislative Budget Board Testimony**

The President announced that he, along with representatives from Academic Affairs and Finance, will travel to Austin on September 25 to participate in Legislative Budget Board hearings. This testimony marks the first of three appearances during the legislative budget process. The university's presentation has been condensed into a five-minute testimony focused on key budget priorities and institutional needs.

**Athletic Director Search**

The President reported that a verbal agreement has been reached with the university's next Athletic Director, who is expected to begin employment on November 1, pending execution of the final contract. A formal announcement and press release will be issued once the contract is finalized. The President noted that all three finalists were strong candidates and expressed confidence that the selected candidate is the best fit for the university.

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**Academic Affairs**

Academic Affairs reported that the University Curriculum Committee will hold its first meeting of the academic year on October 2.

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**Finance and Administration**

**Lee Banda- Vice-President, Finance and Administration**

No report was provided due to the absence of the Chief Financial Officer.

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**Strategic Enrollment**

**Juan Garcia, Jr.-Vice President, Strategic Enrollment**

**Enrollment Update**

Current enrollment stands above 9,250 students, representing continued growth over the previous year. While final enrollment figures have not yet been certified due to ongoing registration adjustments, university leadership confirmed that Fall 2026 enrollment will establish another institutional record, exceeding 9,200 students.

Staff from Enrollment Management, the Registrar's Office, Student Business Services, and Financial Aid are continuing efforts to finalize enrollment and address students with outstanding balances. Students owing tuition may be dropped from courses if payment arrangements are not resolved.

**Budget Outlook**

Preliminary enrollment and semester credit hour projections indicate that the university remains aligned with fiscal year budget assumptions. Leadership anticipates meeting enrollment-based revenue projections and remaining financially stable for FY27.

**Financial Aid**

Approximately $40 million in financial aid was released, with approximately $10.5 million distributed directly to students after payment of tuition, fees, and bookstore charges.

**Recruitment Activities**

Recruitment efforts for Fall 2027 are underway through college fairs, high school visits, and regional outreach events in the Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio. The annual Counselor Update is scheduled for September 22 and will include presentations on new academic initiatives and programs.

**Passport Services**

The Office of International Experiences successfully renewed its passport acceptance certification and will continue providing passport processing services to faculty, staff, students, and community members.

**Veteran Services Recognition**

The university received the Bronze Veterans Education Excellence Recognition (VERA) from the Texas Veterans Commission. Leadership commended the Veterans Affairs staff for this accomplishment and affirmed plans to pursue Silver recognition in the coming year.

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**Student Engagement**

**Rosalinda Garcia-Vice President Student Engagement**

**Health Services**

Due to temporary staffing challenges, Health Services is currently operating with two full-time nurses rather than its usual four. Essential student services remain available, though outreach activities may be reduced.

**COVID-19 Monitoring**

Health Services continues to track COVID-19 activity and is currently seeing approximately five to six reported cases weekly, reflecting broader local trends. The university remains aligned with CDC guidance and provides information and protocols through its website.

**Mental Health Awareness Week**

Student Engagement reported successful Mental Health Awareness Week programming. Eighty-six students participated in mental health screenings. Twenty percent of screened students indicated thoughts of self-harm or suicide, prompting further assessment and support through Counseling Services.

Leadership encouraged faculty and staff participation in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training. The training supports the university's JED Campus mental health strategy and helps employees respond effectively when students disclose mental health concerns.

**Upcoming Events**

- E-sports and Alamo Drafthouse collaboration event scheduled for October 4.
- Annual Halloween Fall Fest is scheduled for October 29.

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**Institutional Advancement**

**Jay Zambrano-Vice President, Institutional Advancement**

Institutional Advancement reported significant success from Investiture Week activities and related fundraising efforts.

**Investiture Events and Marketing**

The university received extensive positive media exposure through local news coverage, newspaper features, airport advertising, and social media engagement. The division emphasized continuing efforts to build regional visibility and strengthen brand awareness.

**Fundraising Outcomes**

The Investiture Dinner achieved a sold-out attendance and generated approximately $225,000 in immediate support. Several follow-up conversations with sponsors, foundations, and donors may result in additional gifts. Advancement staff will continue donor stewardship and engagement efforts to capitalize on the momentum created by the event.

University leadership emphasized that the primary goal of the dinner was to strengthen relationships and expand future philanthropic opportunities, and initial results appear highly promising.

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**Athletics**

**Henry Miller-Interim Athletic Director**

**Facilities Improvements**

Athletics provided an update on facility enhancement projects. Work continues on baseball and softball infrastructure, while soccer field lighting installation has been delayed due to field conditions and is expected to occur later in the fall.

**Athletic Performance**

The men's and women's cross-country teams both won the Shriner Invitational in Kerrville. Some student-athletes were affected by recent COVID-19 illnesses, but overall team performance remained strong.

**Staff and Coach Recognition**

Athletics is planning recognition activities for National Coaches Day on October 6. Dr. Maynard thanked the Interim Athletics Director, Henry Miller, for maintaining operations during the transition period prior to the arrival of the new Athletic Director.

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**Staff Senate**

**Rebecca Romero**

Staff Senate reported:

- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for September 22 and will include an address from the President in both in-person and virtual formats.
- A vacancy for Vice President of Marketing and Communication has been filled, with the individual to be sworn in at the next meeting.
- A staff wellness and line-dancing event is scheduled for September 24, reflecting ongoing efforts to build community and employee engagement.

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**Faculty Advisory Council**

**George Clarke-FAC President**

Faculty Advisory Council reported:

- The council held its first meeting of the academic year.
- New leadership has been elected.
- Committee vacancies are being filled.
- The next meeting will take place on October 2.

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**Student Government Association**

**David Sosa-SGA President**

Student Government Association reported:

- Candidate debates for local elections are scheduled for October 6.
- Additional debates are scheduled for October 14.

- Student representatives continue discussions regarding academic technologies and student concerns.
- Collaboration efforts are underway to strengthen connections between the student government and community leadership.

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**Open Floor**

**TAMIU Family Tuition Benefit**

Dr. Maynard reported that implementation planning for the TAMIU Family Tuition Benefit continues. A website is expected to launch by October 1 and will provide employees with a streamlined process for claiming the benefit each semester.

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**Attendees**

- Kathy Casares
- G. Clarke
- J. Garcia, Jr.
- R. Garcia
- C. Maynard
- H. Miller
- E. Morales
- J. O'Meara
- M.R. Palacios
- L. Perez-Batres
- A. Ramirez
- D. Sosa
- M. Ynalvez
- J. Zambrano

**Absent**

- L. Banda
- A. LaPlant
- L. Norris
- E. Ramírez
- MC. Salinas
- C. San Miguel

**Delegates Present**

- A. Buentello (for L. Norris)
- J. Norris (for E. Ramírez)
- R. Romero (for MC. Salinas)

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**Calendar Event Items**

**September 22, 2026**

- TAMIU Counselor Update, 11:30 a.m., STC Ballroom
- Staff Senate Meeting, 2:00 p.m., AIC 126 (Hybrid)

**September 22–24, 2026**

- LEDC Pathways for Trade Symposium, STC Ballroom

**September 25, 2026**

- Legislative Budget Board Hearing, Austin (President, Provost, CFO, Chief of Staff)

**September 30, 2026**

- September Staff Birthday Lunch,12:00 p.m., WHTC 160 Extension

**October 5, 2026**

- Executive Council Meeting, 1:00 p.m., KL 270

**October 7, 2026**

- Student Recital: Abisai Banda, FPA Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**October 28, 2026**

- October Staff Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m., WHTC 160

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned following closing remarks from President Christopher Maynard, who thanked the Executive Council and university community for their efforts during Investiture Week and encouraged continued momentum in advancing university priorities.