TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
A Member of The Texas A&M University System

Office of the President

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
October 5, 2026
1:00 p.m.
KL270

President's Updates
- ~~C. Maynard~~ absent

Academic Affairs
- C. San Miguel

Finance and Administration
- ~~L. Banda~~ absent

Strategic Enrollment
- J. Garcia, Jr.

Student Engagement
- R. Garcia

Institutional Advancement
- J. Zambrano

Athletics
- H. Miller

Staff Senate
- R. Romero

Faculty Advisory Council
- G. Clarke

Student Government Association
- D. Sosa

OPEN FLOOR

Calendar Event Items:

- **October 7,** Student Recital: Abisai Banda, FPA Recital Hall, 7:30 pm
- **October 13,** Staff Senate meeting, TEAMS, 2 pm
- **October 16,** Faculty Recital: Dr. Claire Salli (Saxophonist)
- **October 19,** Executive Council Meeting, 1 pm, KL270
- **October 20,** Student Regent Campus Visit -Lisa Cantu
- **October 23,** Tomorrow Starts Today, 8:45 am, WHTC 111
- **October 24,** Make A Difference Day, 8 am, Location TBD
- **October 28,** October Birthday Lunch, 12 pm, WHTC 160
- **November 2,** Executive Council Meeting, 1 pm, KL270

E.C. Group:
***Absent**

1. L. Banda	6. A. González	12. L. Norris	18. MC. Salinas
2. K. Casares	7. J. Hatcher	13. J. O'Meara	19. C. San Miguel
3. G. Clarke	8. A. LaPlant	14. M.R. Palacios	20. D. Sosa
	9. C. Maynard	15. L. Perez-Batres	21. M. Ynalvez
4. J. García, Jr.	10. H. Miller	16. A. Ramirez	22. J. Zambrano
5. R. García	11. E. Morales	17 . E. Ramírez	

Delegates:

1. Fred Juarez

12. N/A

17. A. Michelangli

18. R.Romero

Meeting minutes are located here: https://www.tamiu.edu/president/executive-council/index.shtml

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. | KL270
Office of the President, Texas A&M International University

Call to Order

In the absence of Christopher Maynard, the meeting was presided over by Provost Dr. Claudia San Miguel. Attendance followed the agenda roster.

Welcome and Introductions

New Planetarium Director

Dr. Marcus Ynalvez introduced **Dr. Dan Vershock**, the University's new Planetarium Director. Dr. Vershock received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and completed postdoctoral work there. He shared his vision of advancing the planetarium as a regional hub for space exploration, workforce development, and partnerships with organizations such as NASA and other space-related initiatives.

Dr. Vershock emphasized the importance of campus-wide engagement and invited faculty, staff, and students to collaborate with the planetarium. He expressed enthusiasm about expanding educational and community opportunities through the facility.

Special recognition was given to **Jesus Herrera**, Planetarium Program Specialist, for maintaining operations and supporting programming during the leadership transition.

Academic Affairs Update

Strategic Plan Alignment

Dr. Claudia San Miguel reported that the Texas A&M University System recently updated its strategic plan. The University must now align its strategic plan and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with the System's priorities before the end of October.

Vice presidents, deans, and unit leaders may be contacted over the coming weeks to review alignment within their respective areas.

Global and Community Engagement

Dean, Dr. James O'Meara, provided updates on initiatives supporting community advancement and global engagement:

Diplomacy Lab Initiative

- TAMIU was selected to participate in **Project Constellation** through the U.S. Department of State Diplomacy Lab.
- Students will have opportunities to conduct international research projects for the State Department and international organizations while earning academic credit.
- The initiative will support experiential learning and strengthen global engagement opportunities.

Laredo Noreste Network

- Continued development of the **Laredo Noreste** regional partnership network involving northern Mexican states.
- Focus areas include:
    - Workforce readiness
    - Critical minerals
    - Supply chain security
    - Emerging technologies
- Emphasis is shifting from individual Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) toward high-impact collaborative networks.

Laredo Literacy Partnership

- The University's literacy partnership was selected to present at the **World Literacy Summit** at Oxford University.
- The presentation will highlight local outcomes and research findings while creating opportunities for new international partnerships.

Stronger Communities Initiative

Council members discussed participation in the Texas A&M System's **Stronger Communities** initiative.

Key themes included:

- Constructive dialogue and civil discourse.
- Training facilitators capable of guiding difficult conversations.

- Development of campuswide capacity to address challenging topics and community concerns.
- Student-led dialogue activities planned for November 4.

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Marcus Ynalvez reported on the success of the Fine Arts Festival held on Friday and Saturday.

Highlights included:

- Performances by musicians and visual artists.
- Strong community participation.
- Well-attended ballet folklórico performances featuring students from local schools and organizations.

Dr. Ynalvez noted that involving community groups increased attendance and strengthened community engagement.

A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business

Federal Funding Announcement

Dean, Dr. Luis Perez-Batres, reported that Congressman Cuellar visited the campus to announce federal funding support for the **Laredo Logistics Ecosystem Program** for Fiscal Year 2027.

Faculty investigators include researchers affiliated with the TAMIU Trade Center and related academic units.

University Partnerships in Tamaulipas

The University hosted representatives from Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas campuses in Victoria and Nuevo Laredo.

Key observations:

- Ciudad Victoria maintains a strong research profile with a significant number of tenure-track faculty engaged in Mexico's national research system.
- Nuevo Laredo has stronger industry-oriented programs.

- The contrasting strengths create opportunities for strategic partnerships in research and workforce initiatives.

Finance and Administration

TAMIU Family Educational Benefits Program

Mr. Fred Juarez provided an update on the **TAMIU Family Educational Benefits Program**, which offers qualified employees, spouses, and dependents a 50% tuition and fee discount.

Updates included:

- Program information was released campuswide by October 1.
- Application deadline for Spring participation is December 1.
- Human Resources continues gathering questions and creating guidance materials and FAQs.

Employee Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations are expected to resume in the spring semester following discussions about timelines and alignment with merit-based compensation processes.

Strategic Enrollment Management

Vice-President, Mr. Juan Garcia Jr., reported:

Recruitment Activities

- High school recruitment efforts are underway.
- International recruitment visits have begun.
- Local and regional campus visits will continue throughout October and November.

Commencement Kickoff

- Scheduled for October 8.
- Graduating students will receive information regarding commencement ceremonies, regalia, diplomas, invitations, and graduation requirements.

Registration Updates

- Faculty were reminded that undergraduate midterm grades are due October 11.
- Advising and spring registration preparations are underway.
- Enrollment for the second flex term continues.
- Current enrollment stands at approximately 9,272 students, with expectations of reaching approximately 9,300 before stabilization.

Student Engagement

Emergency Student Assistance

Vice-President Ms. Rosalinda Garcia announced the receipt of a **$25,000 grant from Ellucian** to support emergency student assistance needs.

Fraternity and Sorority Engagement

The Division continues proactive conversations with fraternity and sorority organizations regarding:

- Campus culture
- Risk management
- Alcohol-related concerns
- Prevention programming

The University has not experienced the level of hazing incidents receiving national attention, but it remains committed to education and prevention efforts.

Zombie Run

The annual Zombie Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Highlights include:

- First year as an evening event.
- Glow-in-the-dark features.
- Community participation and fundraising opportunities.

Institutional Advancement

Vice-President, Mr. Javier Zambrano, reported:

Scholarship Funding

A scholarship commitment totaling approximately $50,000 is nearing completion.

Naming Opportunities

Discussions are underway regarding:

- Naming opportunities within the Western Hemispheric Trade Center Annex.
- Potential naming of a laboratory space within the Health Sciences building.

Coordination Reminder

Faculty and administrators were reminded to coordinate donor, corporate, foundation, and partnership conversations through Institutional Advancement to ensure consistent communication and strategic alignment.

Marketing and Communications support should likewise be engaged early in the planning of events and promotions.

Athletics

Interim Director, Mr. Henry Miller, provided updates:

Facilities

- New field lighting installation is progressing and anticipated for completion by December.
- Soccer field lighting is being upgraded to LED technology.
- Patio improvements near the Kinesiology, Wellness and Recreation Center are underway.
- Replacement of aging scoreboards is under consideration due to increasing maintenance challenges.

Athletics Programs

- Cross Country continues to perform well.
- Volleyball remains competitive.
- Men's Soccer is positioned for potential conference tournament qualification.
- Women's Soccer continues to develop a young roster.

Upcoming Events

- National Coaches Day luncheon: October 6.
- Maroon Madness: October 13.

Mr. Miller also informed the Council that this would be his final Executive Council meeting before fully returning to his Athletics Compliance responsibilities, and thanked campus leadership for their support.

Council members expressed appreciation for his service in the interim athletics leadership role.

Staff Senate Report

President-Elect, Ms. Rebecca Romero, reported:

Recent Activities

- Staff line dancing event attracted approximately 25 participants.
- New fundraising options are being explored.

Upcoming Initiatives

- Book Swap and "Blind Date with a Book" program.
- Staff Book Scholarship application cycle.
- Staff Senate Recognition Program opening October 13.
- New staff newsletter highlighting:
    - Campus events
    - Birthdays
    - Work anniversaries
    - Staff announcements

Additional Campus Engagement

- Staff Senate meeting scheduled for October 13.
- Halloween Spirit Week activities and a pet photo contest are planned.

Faculty Advisory Council

President, Dr. George Clarke, reported:

- Faculty Advisory Council met with the President and Provost.
- Productive discussions were held regarding faculty concerns and University priorities.
- Vacant council and committee positions have largely been filled.

Student Government Association

President, Mr. David Sosa, reported:

Student Regent Visit

- Student Regent Lisa Cantu will visit campus on October 20.

Student Leadership Appointments

Applications were opened for:

- Student Regent nomination process.
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board student representative opportunities.

Campus Committees

Student Government is working to reactivate campus committees, including:

- Bookstore Committee
- Library-related committees
- Commencement Committee

Student Events

- Maroon Madness on October 13.
- DustyCon is scheduled for October 29.
- City Council Debate scheduled for October 6.
- Mayoral Debate scheduled for October 14.
- Ongoing student workshops connected to the Stronger Communities initiative.

Open Forum

Healthy Relationships Week

Director of Compliance, Monica R. Palacios, mentioned the following:

Representatives from Compliance and Title IX announced **Howdy to Healthy Relationships Week** programming.

Activities include:

- Green Dot bystander intervention training.
- Consent education initiatives.
- Moo-bile outreach activities.
- Awareness events focused on sexual assault prevention, healthy relationships, dating violence prevention, stalking awareness, and campus safety.

Council members were encouraged to participate and invite their departments to engage in training opportunities.

Counseling and Support Services

Ms. Rosalinda Garcia-A reminder was provided that Counseling Services can respond quickly to support students, staff, and faculty following critical incidents or losses within the campus community.

International Visitor

Dr. O'Meara -Council members were informed that **Ms. Anna Dukanda** from Finland will visit the campus from October 12–19 as part of the Nordic Network initiative. Opportunities will be available for faculty, students, and staff to meet with her regarding education, entrepreneurship, publishing, resilience, and international partnerships.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Executive Council Meeting: October 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., KL270.