

TAMIU STAFF SENATE



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017

Attendance: Christian Garcia, Juan G. Perez, Eric M. Gonzalez, Elsa Real, Taryn Shehab, Veronica Guzman, Veronica Juarez, Athena V. Cortez, Jackelyne K. Briseno, Irene Garcia, Fabian Castillo, Cesar Castro, Beto Gonzalez, Tyson Jex, Denise Garza, Ariana Aguillon, Julie Barrera, Julio Tovar, Kristina Valenciano, Flora H. Bocanegra, Stephanie Martinez, Janet Haverkamp, Michelle Begwin, Josie R. Arredondo, Monica De La Garza, Nora Lerma, Ana M. Vargas, Karla Gutierrez, and Lorenzo Rodriguez.

Executive Board: Michael Gonzalez, Yelitza Howard, Karla Gutierrez, Gloria Sanchez, Vanessa Almaraz, Marth Laura Medina, and Cihlalli Perez.

I. **Welcome**

Michael Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 10:01am. Michael welcomed all members and thanked everyone for coming to the first meeting on the new academic year.

II. **Minutes (Review and Approval)**

Minutes were reviewed and approved. Motioned by Irene Garcia and Stephanie Martinez seconded the motion.

III. **Treasurer's Report**

Martha Laura Medina advised an amount of \$1,426.00 currently in Staff Senate account. Michael Gonzalez advised there is an additional \$211.75 from the September 7th fundraiser from Chipotle.

IV. **TAMIU News**

- Christy L. Martinez provided information about questions regarding payroll.
 - a. Concern over holiday/weekend pay for monthly pay date. Could the pay date be pushed forward? Pay dates are determined after the day closes. If moved forward it would be considered an advance to which TAMIU is unable to provide as per state law.
 - b. A reminder to those who have part-timers or student workers that the pay schedule has changed from Thursday – Wednesday to Sunday –Saturday. Timecards are now due on Fridays rather than Thursdays. Make sure they are reporting the correct hours due to the change. Such departments would include RecSports for weekend hours.
 - c. As per the IRS, the policy for door prizes for any event a department may give, (ex. TED and Holiday Gala) must be under \$100.00. If over they will be

taxed. If providing a Service Award, the employee must have worked a certain amount of years for the prize to not be taxable. This must only be done with cash. If providing a Safety Award, the policy may also follow the same procedure as a Service Award.

- d. With regards to donations, since the donation will now be the property of the department/organization you must pay tax.
 - e. Parking Permits cannot be under payroll deduction due to the amount of the permit. To be determined as payroll deduction, the deduction itself would have to be at least \$20.00 a month. Parking permits do not cost enough to provide payroll deduction.
- Araceli Sandoval informed members since pay schedule has changed, orientations for new employees will be on Tuesdays rather than Thursdays. Paperwork for new employees will be due the Wednesdays before their start of the new position. Last date to hire with no Social Security number is on October 31st, last date to hire on the academic calendar is December 11th.
 - Michael Gonzalez provided information that Aramark will be allowing payroll deductions for meal plans for full-time employees. More information to be at October meeting.
 - Yelitza Howard provided information regarding "The Wacky Nerd Race" from the Alumni Association and MPA. Event will be held on September 23rd at 7:30am and proceeds from the 5K run/walk will be for student scholarships and for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Early Registration for runners will be \$20.00 (at the door, \$25.00) and \$10.00 for walkers.
 - Jackelyne K. Briseno reminded members about the Annual Giving Campaign and competition. Employee contribution can be done by form or online. Payments include cash, check or online payment. Payment can be as small as \$5.00. There will be a celebration of Oktoberfest after campaign has completed. Department winner will have bragging rights for the entire year. Each departments are categorized by size; Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3.
 - Michael Gonzalez advised members of the upcoming Small Business Development Center Management Certificate. The new cohort will start in October and will end in January. The price will be \$125.00 and includes all materials and 10 courses. Payment can be made through the TAMIU Marketplace.
 - Gloria Sanchez advised members of Eventzee, a mobile scavenger hunt device. It was used for TED, and recently TRiO. If interested, please contact elarning@tamiu.edu for more information.
 - Yelitza Howard informed members about the new TAMIU Food Pantry. Starting this year, faculty and staff are encouraged to donate to the pantry to help students who may not have the means to provide for themselves a meal. Dr. Arenaz has encourage to donate canned goods during the faculty/staff mixer to the TAMIU Food Pantry. In the future there are hopes to work with the South Texas Food Bank. For more information, please contact Dr. Minita Ramirez or Gina Gonzalez.

V. **Professional Development**

- Vanessa Almaraz provided a small video pertaining to Customer Service in Higher Education. Video is titled "Redefining the Student Experience in Higher Education".

VI. **Presentation; Eric Gonzalez, Christian Gonzalez and Juan Perez – RecSports**

- Christian Gonzalez described the new expansion of RecSports and showed pictures to show the new rooms and equipment. Encourage employees to take advantage of the new equipment and staff are always there to help.
- Juan Perez informed members that there are now 8 new instructors so the group fitness schedule will be updated with more sessions. A session will be starting every 30 minutes from 5:30pm-9:30pm. Group Fitness Schedule is on RecSports website. He also gave tips for fitness. 1. Come take a free tour and 2. Be motivated (intrinsic and extrinsic).
- Eric Gonzalez continued the tips with being positive. Make a plan and having a group workout is always better motivation than working out alone. Working out releases endorphins and makes people more happy. The motivation is up to you.
- You may also use the HR Release time for the gym or try out the 2 week free pass. Payroll deduction is available with \$25.00 per month deducted from paycheck.

VII. **Open Floor**

- Gloria Sanchez from OIT informed members that Dr. Abrego and the Rotaract Club have worked together to place a "Peace Pole" on September 21st at 10am in the LBV Garden. Peace Poles symbolize the unity of humanity and our common wish for a world at peace.
- Tyson Jex from Athletics informed members of Maroon Madness that will be held on October 18th at 8pm. Before the event at 6pm there will be a pre-party with food and the event will start at 8pm. The men's and women's basketball teams will be introduced as well as a ring ceremony for the men's basketball team.
- Irene Garcia informed that Student Counseling and Disability Services will now be hosting counseling in groups. If students are interested, please contact office at ext. 2230.
- Michelle Begwin from Continuing Ed informed members of classes for Salsa dancing for beginners. Instructor Erika Haynes will teach the fundamentals of salsa dancing for individuals or as partners. Learn quick and easy steps to a Latin beat.
\$120 Per Person / \$200 Per Couple
For more information contact the TAMIU Office of Continuing Education at 956-326-3067 or ce@tamiu.edu
- Veronica Juarez informed members of the Presidential Lecture Series that will begin September 19th at 6:30pm with Sociology author Tomas Jimenez lecturing on "The Other Side Of Assimilation: How Immigrants Are Changing American Life" in FPA Recital Hall. On November 15th Mark Lilla will be lecturing on "After Identity Politics" at 6 pm, location is still TBA. Both lectures are free to the public. Flyers were provided for more information.
- Karla Gutierrez advised members of the new tradition of singing the alma mater every Monday in the LBV Garden at 12pm. Students and staff welcomed.

- Lorenzo Rodriguez advised members that there are 3 brand new study rooms on the 1st floor of the library that have monitors.

VIII. **Door Prizes**

Karla Gutierrez, Veronica Guzman, Juan Perez, Chris Garza, Ana Vargas, Elsa Real, Michelle Begwin, Flora Bocanegra, Julie Barrera, Josie Arredondo, Jackelyne Briseno, Irene Garcia, Veronica Juarez, Eric Gonzalez, Cesar Castro, and Janet Haverkamp.

IX. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17am by Eric Gonzalez and Christian Garcia 2nd the motion.