

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

## Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019

2PM WHTC 104

**Attendance:** Kathy Casares, Cihtlalli Perez, Leticia Valle, Yadira Ramirez, Susan Foster, Michelle Begwin, Cindy Villarreal, Nayeli Lopez, Nate Vogel, Rocio Garcia, Evaristo Gallardo, Jackelyne Briseno, Athena Cortez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Kristina Valenciano, Melinda Rocha, Patsy Lopez, Amy Sandoval, Ana Vargas

**Executive Board:** Yelitza Howard, Gloria Sanchez, Kathy Casares, Rocio Garcia, Michelle Espinoza, and Alejandro Martinez, Ana Maria Vargas

**I: Welcome:** Ana Vargas called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

**II. Minutes (Review and Approval):** March minutes approved by Athena Cortez and Cihtlalli Perez

**III. Treasurer's Report:** \$ 1,559.81

**IV. Earth Week Presentation Jessica Perez:** We have several events going on this week. We have planted rose bushes and we had 18 volunteers come out and help at 8am. We used to do just Earth Day and now we do Earth Week and this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year doing this. We actually planted all the plants you see about 3 years ago in front of the planetarium. It is really rewarding to see the students enjoying what volunteers have done to beautify our campus. Today we had our fair-Reuse-Reduce-Recycle, and tomorrow we have green pledges, students will show off what they pledge to do to be more environmentally friendly. On Thursday, we are having a Rio Runway Event (RIO-stands recycle items only) student's will create a costume using recycled items only and a walk a runway and it will take place tomorrow evening at 7pm at ROC pool and the winner wins \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$100 in dusty dollars and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner wins \$50. Friday to close out our weeks events we will be dedicating a plaque that will be placed where the rose bushes were planted and that will be Friday morning at 9am with Dr. Arenaz. Please tell your students to come on by we have many free goodies and neat stuff. We also have information on Conserve My Planet Ignite, where students are involved in working on hands on projects. We have been working very closely with Schneider Electric in these projects. The University has invested a lot of money to get these projects out and many students don't know about them and we are trying to reach out to more professors on how to get these programs implemented into the course work. Schneider electric is currently changing light bulbs to led lights and they have done interior lighting as well at outdoor lighting. We have saved \$181, 000 with all these changes. I will be more than happy to share from the city of Laredo from the recycling center on what items are in fact recyclable. Please email me with any questions at [safety@tamiu.edu](mailto:safety@tamiu.edu).

**V. Bowl a Thon on-site registration and payment:** Amy from Bursars office will be in charge of registering anyone who wants to be a part of the bowl a thon and accept payments.

**VI. Summer Camp assistance selection: Ana Vargas:** This is the first year where we have established this type of assistance and this will assist any employee who will register their kids for the summer camp with part of the cost. We will be awarding each registered applicant \$50 per child. Therefore, this year our recipients are Michael Gonzalez, Connie Lara, Patsy Lopez, Melinda Rocha and Rocio Garcia. Thank you for everyone who participated. We look forward to keeping this going for the upcoming summers. **Alex Martinez:** The bowl a thon help us raise money so that we can offer this to the employees. So please take the opportunity to join a team for this upcoming bowl a thon. This is how we are able to give back to the staff and fundraisers help us do this.

**VII. Staff Senate Survey:** Last year's questions consisted of three open-ended questions but this year we wanted to be able to give more opportunity to add their opinions. This will be a brief survey there are yes and no questions but we are hoping everyone could fill out the survey by Tuesday April 23 and we will send out the email with the link to the survey and we will also post this on uconnect that way we can get more participation. First question: Are you familiar with the role of Staff Senate, yes or no; Second: Do you know who serves as your current staff senate board? What events have you attended or plan to attend? In addition, we want to know about any future events you might be interested. Your feedback and suggestions are welcomed for this question. Do you want to participate in any community service initiatives, with either the University community or Laredo community? Finally, how can we better serve you? What issues or suggestions would you like to bring to our attention? None of these questions are required, they are optional. The more feedback you can give us the better we can serve you. In addition, this is anonymous survey so if you do want us to get back to you can include your contact information.

**VIII. Service Learning Expo Cihlalli Perez:** Hello, I am Cihlalli Perez and I work for the service-learning center. Service learning is a way of teaching and students are enrolled in a service learning class, which means as part of their course they need to go out into the community and do services related to their course content. Students experience something with the community and then come back and discuss it with their faculty members. We will be hosting the Service Learning Expo, which is an opportunity for students in these courses to explain to our TAMIU community what they have learned as part of their course. I am seeking volunteers to serve as judges. If you are available on Thursday, April 18 from either 9-11am or 9-10am or 10-11am, please let me know so that you can learn about what our students are doing and judge them based on a rubric that we will provide you so that you can give them feedback on their presentation. We have over 55 posters this year. This will take place in the student center ballroom.

**IX. Open Floor: Kristina Valenciano:** This month instead of a wellness Wednesday activity, we will be having a mobile recovery station. We will be able to use relaxing massaging chairs at 15 min spots. You will need to sign up for this. This will take place the last week of April before finals. On 27 April, we will be having our Desk to 5k so this will take place in the front lawn. There will be yoga and raffle prizes and we are trying out something different to incorporate our families. We will have a family picnic after the event. Please bring your snacks and family to have a picnic in the front lawn. **Ana Vargas:** I volunteer for the Income tax assistance; we are still doing tax returns until next Monday so if you know anyone who has not done their taxes they can come to WHTC 125 the site is open Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and it is open from 11-1pm and 5:30-7:30 pm in the evenings. You will need your original social security card and photo ID. **Rocio:** I like to introduce our new women's basketball coach Nate Vogel. **Nate:** Let me know if there is anything I can help with, we want to be the top pillars of community service and for the Laredo community as well.

**X. Door Prizes:** Rocio Garcia, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Athena Cortez, Nate Vogel, Melinda Rocha, Patsy Lopez, Nayeli Lopez, Jackie Briseno, Kathy Casares, Cihlalli Perez

**XI. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:49pm. Motioned by Lorenzo Rodriguez and Michelle Begwin seconded.