

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

**Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2018
2 PM SC 231**

Attendance: Kathy Casares, Sabina Cardenas, Gloria Perez, Irene Garcia, Claudia Ortiz, Michelle Espinoza, Flora Bocanegra, Leonela Preciado, Jessica Vasquez, Fabian Castillo, Cesar Castro, Ana Maria Vargas, Emily Lerma, Jackelyne Briseno, Karina Saucedo, Nayeli Lopez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Gloria Sanchez, Margaret Gonzalez, Martha Laura Medina, Yelitza Howard, Nicolas Gomez, Jan Aspelund, Evaristo Gallardo

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

I: Welcome: Yelitza Howard called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

II. Minutes (Review and Approval): Minutes approved by Lorenzo Rodriguez and seconded by Nayeli Lopez

III. Treasurer's Report: \$3,921.00

IV. International Engagement (Triana Gonzalez): I was able to speak with students from other countries and they were able to share what they celebrate or how they celebrate during the holiday season. Many of the celebrations they have are very similar to what we celebrate here in the US. Asian students holidays are rooted in religious traditions and many follow the Hindu traditions. In Asian traditions good over comes evil and the elders give a blessing to the younger generations with bread. Holy Festival of Colors is a Hindu festival where people throw colored powder and the purpose of this is to welcome the spring season. The Buddha celebration celebrate the life of Buddha. People go to temples and bring huge pictures and art of Buddha and have parades and such to celebrate his life. In India, people do not celebrate Christmas but they do decorate their home but it is not a popular holiday for them but they do celebrate the Diwali Celebration of lights where food, fireworks and prayer are involved in this celebration. In Thailand, Thai's traditional New Year, and the most important holiday of the year is the Songkran Festival. Water is sprayed on statues of Buddha as a means of purification. Thai people also splash water on each other which is a symbol of rebirth. In Hong Kong, Christmas is celebrated and they do go to church. In some places the ceremony is in English because there are Europeans that live in Hong Kong. They send Christmas cards and Chinese crafts. In China, the main celebration is in October and it is a seven-day holiday. In spring there is a festival and celebrate the coming of the spring. They also celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival in which they celebrate the moon by baking moon pies. The moon is a symbol of reunion, harmony and happiness. In South America, Venezuela, they do decorate during Christmas but it is not very elaborate like as in the US. They do enjoy Hallacas, which are similar to tamales in the Mexican tradition. Some traditional Christmas music in Venezuela is 'Gaita' music, similar to Christmas carols. For New Year, They wear yellow underwear for luck and money and for higher chances to find love and romance. At midnight, they eat 12

grapes for every second before the clock strikes 12 midnight by also making a wish. El Dia de los Reyes Magos' (the day of The Three Kings) on January 6th, is also celebrated. In Colombia in New Year, They attend mass and then afterward have a huge celebration and dancing that takes place. In Europe, Germany is well known for its Christmas Markets where all sorts of Christmas foods and decorations are sold. Most popular drink is the Blue wine. Christmas trees are put 2 days before Christmas and on the 24th day of December; They eat fish, potatoes, and salad. In the Netherlands, They celebrate St. Nicolas Eve and the most important day during December is 5th December, when Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) brings them their presents. In many families, the children are told that Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet make a weekly visit, so the children leave their shoe by the fireplace or window every Saturday until the main Sinterklaas party on 5th December. They are told that, during the night, Sinterklaas rides on the roofs on his horse and that a 'Zwarte Piet' will then climb down the chimney (or through a window) and put the presents and/or candy in their shoes. In Ukrian, Christmas takes place in January and it is very intimate with no decorations. The meal normally has 12 dishes, which represent Jesus's 12 disciples. Traditionally the dishes do not have any meat, eggs or milk in them. In Croatia, preparations for Christmas start on 25th November which is St Catherine's day. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are mostly celebrated with close family. On New Year's they celebrate with fireworks. In the Czech Republic, The main Christmas celebrations are on Christmas Eve. Some people fast during Christmas Eve in the hope that they will see a vision of 'the golden pig' appear on the wall before dinner. This is meant to be a sign of good luck. The Czech traditional Christmas dinner is eaten during the evening of Christmas Eve. The meal often consists of fish soup (made of carp), and fried fish with potato salad.

V. Surveys: We are going to be sending out a survey this week about the Holiday Gala. There will be an opportunity to share their ideas and renewal for next year. Last year we sent out a general survey about the University and we received good feedback. We will be doing that again around January and hope you can share your ideas with us.

VI. TAMIU News:

a. Graduation: Graduation is happening on Thursday. We have close to 800 students graduating, it is a very big day for the University, and it will be happening at the Sames Auto Arena.

b. Upcoming 2019 Spring Events: Book scholarships will be available late January, so that possibly TAMIU Employees that are students can get a reimbursement on their books. We are thinking of having a bowl-a-ton in March so please if you can come up with some themes and also, if there is something you would like to share with us that way we can save the date for that event.

VII. Open Floor: Jan: Please see Graduate Studies program for renewal process online. I would like to introduce Evaristo Gallardo our new administrative associate for Career services. **Jackelyne Briseno:** Update on Giving Tuesday, we broke record from last year, \$23, 000 raised and close to 250 donors, thank you to everyone who is a monthly donor or who is advocating or tweeting, thank you very much we couldn't have done it without your help. **Yelita Howard:** For those of you who don't know what Giving Tuesday is, it's a day of International Giving for 24hours.

VIII. Door Prizes: Jan Aspelund, Jackelyne Briseno, Nicholas Gomez, Flora Bocanegra, Sabina Cardenas, Kathy Casares, Martha Laura Medina, Ana Maria Vargas, Claudia Ortiz, Michelle Espinoza, Gloria Perez, Irene Garcia, Emily Lerma

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm. Motioned by Irene Garcia and Margaret Gonzalez seconded.

