

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019
2PM SC 231

Attendance: Kathy Casares, Ana M. Vargas, Alejandro Martinez, Flora Bocanegra, Erika Cantu, Cindy Villarreal, Michelle Begwin, Melinda Rocha, Priscilla Martinez, Michelle Espinoza, Leonela Preciado, Rocio Garcia, Kristina Valenciano, Jan Aspelund, Hilda Dennis, Jorge Dimas, Guillermo Gonzalez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Gloria Sanchez

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

I: Welcome: Gloria Sanchez called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

II. Minutes (Review and Approval): February minutes approved Michelle Espinoza and Ana Vargas

III. Treasurer's Report: \$ 1,610.00

IV. Discover TAMIU- Gina Gonzalez: This is the 5th year that we have held Discover TAMIU. This is the biggest open house the University holds. Discover TAMIU is the whole University setting up activities that can be enjoyed by locals and out of town communities and see, what TAMIU has to offer. It is a free event open to all ages from kids to grandparents. No registration needed, people can just walk in and discover TAMIU. I borrowed the idea from Explore UT. My children took a fieldtrip to explore University of Texas and I liked their idea and thought TAMIU could benefit from this exposure of higher education from a young age. I proposed the idea to the President and it took two years to get it going. Most activities are outside, some take place inside, and that is the whole purpose of this event to get everyone to explore the campus. Activities take place in different buildings, departments and colleges of the University. This event will be on Saturday, April 6 from 11am to 4 pm and the whole community is invited, so please invite your friends and family and please share on social media. The only thing that will not be provided is food but the student center food court will be open to purchase food items. I wanted people to come in because of the event and to see our University and not just for the food. We have 10 schools coming in from other cities that will be traveling just for this event and that is already over 700 students that we know for sure are attending plus anyone else who walks in. We want students to get to know TAMIU at a young age and expand their choices. There are over 85 activities for all ages and by age group and families. Programs will be passed out during the event. Please email me at gina@tamiu.edu so that I may forward the program to you. If you are interested in submitting an activity from your department, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can get the program out electronically by Friday so it can be posted online our website and social media. The event will be divided into 5 different pathways like, artistic, scientific, business, International and Spirited Speedway. Rain or shine we will continue.

V. Continuing Education-Michelle Begwin: Summer camp registration is ongoing until May 27th. We have a virtual catalog up on our website. Our camps are Kindergarten through high school. Kindergarten through middle school is all day and we also offer aftercare for those busy parents that need a little extra time and it is very affordable. We also offer high school prep classes, like TSI, SAT, verbal and math prep. All of teachers are certified and we are very conscientious about safety, kids are in a very safe atmosphere and always monitored. Our program is a venue for growth and it helps kids be independent, gives them self-confidence, and helps them get ahead for the academic year. This year we have a unique program where the child does need to be enrolled the whole month of June and they will be building a soapbox car and its incredible opportunity for kids that really interested in STEM. You can go online to register and you can hold your spot with only \$50 per session; there are 2 sessions per month. Kids can also select their own classes. The kids also get to go to the food court at lunchtime with the purchased lunch package. We are also having or Cowboy cooking with Pete Mims, this is our fourth cooking demonstration series and the proceeds go to scholarships for summer camp. Last year we were able to send 4 foster children to our summer camp program and we really appreciate all the support from the community. This event will be April 11 outside the Gym. We also have a Paint n Sip where you can come to relax and paint. All materials are included, we are sponsoring with HEB, and they will have all their spring and summer wine collection available. The class is \$40. We are also having our Print Screen Print-a-thon, it is a 2-day workshop and you can register online. We also have our Professional Development courses for teaching professionals who want to get their training to become and administrator, principal or assistant principal.

VI. Grad Studies-Jorge Dimas, Guillermo Gonzalez: We will be having this Thursday our Graduate school open house from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Zaffirini building. Faculty, staff and students will be available to help who are interested in any of our programs. We broke the record with 1000 students registered for graduate level. We will also have food available and find out what we have to offer. There will also be a scholarship raffle going on for \$2000 at this event to help with books and expenses. Please take some flyers and share with your students or staff. The \$35 fee will also be waived for employees and students on that day. In addition, TAMIU employees get a reduction on fees such as the student service fee, health fee; rec fee and athletic fee are waived if you are full time employee with the university.

VII. TAMIU News: Annual Bowl-a-Ton April 25): Gloria: This will be our third annual bowl –a thon. So we are trying to keep this tradition going. We have about a month left to round up your group. **Alex:** You have an option to register as an individual if you do not have a team and we will go ahead and place you in a team or create a team so everyone can participate. **Gloria:** This year’s team is a comic strip theme, like super hero comics, comic books, Garfield comics for examples. You are encourage to come dressed and we will have prizes for best dressed and best spirited. This is not only for the TAMIU community but also for the Laredo community. Please go to TAMIU.edu/staffsenate and you can click on the events tab and here you can sign up for the bowl a ton. Thank you Alex for setting up our Marketplace so that you can register and pay for your team or individual. Teams are \$125 and individual is \$25 per person.

VIII. Open Floor: Kristina Valenciano: On Saturday, we will be having Softball game to sponsor the veterans. There will food and BBQ plates for \$7. This is a family oriented event and if you are interested, Dan from athletics will have tickets if you are interested in the plate sale. There will also be a car show and they will have Jeeps on display and will have a car smash at the event. The event will be from 10 am to 4pm and it is free and for the whole family. Tomorrow is our Wellness Wednesday and we will have two events that will focus on stress relief and the times will be at 10am and 2pm in Student Center 225. We also started the Healthy Yoga yesterday and its two days out of the week from 5:30 to 6pm and it is free. Be sure to also sign up for Hot Yoga for this Friday and that class will also be free. We also have the Big Event this

weekend at Ruth B Cowl at 7:30 am and registration will be at the Killam Library colonnade that morning.
Gloria: There will be a Safe Zone workshop on Thursday April 4th.

IX. Door Prizes: Alex Martinez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Hilda Dennis, Kathy Casares, Michelle Begwin, Kristina Valenciano, Ericka Cantu, Cindy Villarreal, Flora Bocanegra, Priscilla Martinez

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm. Motioned by Michelle Begwin and Priscilla Martinez seconded.