

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

**Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2018
10 AM SC 231**

Attendance: Ana Maria Vargas, Flora Bocanegra, Kathy Casares, Michelle Espinoza, Martha Laura Medina, Margaret Gonzalez, Priscilla Martinez, Alejandro Martinez, Julio Tovar, San Juanita Guerra, Veronica Garcia, Nayeli Lopez, Emily Lerma, Jackelyn Briseno, Kristina Valenciano, Rocio Garcia, Veronica Juarez, Cihlalli Perez, Norma Cortez, Vanessa Almaraz, Michelle Begwin, Adriana Rodriguez, Hilda Dennis, Jan Aspelund, Jessica Chandarlis, Jorge Dimas, Gloria Sanchez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Leticia Valle, Jessica Perez

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 10:02am.
- II. **Minutes** (Review and Approval): Minutes approved by Cihlalli Perez and seconded by San Juanita Guerra
- III. **Treasurer's Report** :\$2,558
- IV. **Holiday Safety presentation by Jessica Perez:** **Holiday Safety presentation by Jessica Perez:** We have a couple of holidays coming up and wanted to share with you about Halloween safety, Thanksgiving safety, candle safety and Christmas tree safety as well as carbon monoxide safety. It's important that we go through our home and make sure our smoke detectors have batteries and that they are functioning properly. Be careful with portable heaters. There are a lot more fires that occur during the winter time and I would like to share a video with you because it shows how important it is during the holidays to keep all these things in check. I also printed out information on firework safety. It is important if you have a live Christmas tree to water them properly and make sure any dead furs and branches are picked up. Christmas trees can likely happen when you are unaware like in the shower or asleep. Christmas trees burn fast and anything electrical nearby will make it worse. Watch the water intake in the tree. Another thing that can happen is called a flash fire, that anything that is combustible like material, like a couch, carpet is going to self-combust, even if the flames don't even reach the article. A couple of tips for Halloween, make sure child's costumes aren't too long to avoid tripping. Make sure child is visible, use reflective tape or glow sticks. Pay attention to the material and buy anything that is flame retardant. If not make sure they stay away from lighted jack-o-lanterns or other flamed objects. On candle safety, try using the battery-operated ones. Sometimes we forget to turn off or blow out the candle. Another thing I notice a lot when I do my fire safety research is any portable or electrical heaters if left unattended can start a fire. They are not allowed at TAMIU. A small spark in a small office space with a lot of paper material and

books are all combustible material. Make sure to do a quick inspection on your fire extinguishers in the office or homes. Even if you haven't used the extinguishers, they can still go bad and not function. Let your family know where the fire extinguisher is. Talk about an escape plan with your family in case of emergency. Make sure children know their home address. Make sure when you use a fire extinguisher that your back is toward the exit because you don't want to trap yourself in the room. Please look at our website: Environmental Health and Safety on the TAMIU website. We have a lot emergency plans available to you to view.

V. Nayeli Lopez presenting the It's On Us Video: October is domestic violence awareness month. It's On Us is a national organization that a lot of universities practice nationwide. Please share video with your team and co-workers. **San Juanita:** Please wear purple in your offices on Thursdays during the month of October to raise awareness about domestic violence and to honor survivors as well.

VI. Staff Senate Updates by Yelitza Howard:

- a. Chipotle Fundraiser-\$123 were raised, thank you everyone who participated.
- b. Book Scholarships- Congratulations to all book scholarship recipients: Julio Tovar, Hilda Dennis, Veronica Garcia, Jessica Chandarlis. Thank you everyone who participated and donated to the Staff Senate Book Scholarship. Because we had more donations available, Staff Senate was able to help with more funding and we are hoping to do the same next semester. Please look out for the next scholarship opportunity in the spring.
- c. Gala Committee- A sign in sheet is available to anyone interested in joining the Gala committee. Date for the Gala Holiday party will be Saturday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Hoping to get invitations to everyone soon.

VII. TAMIU News:

Rocio: Maroon Madness is to kickoff our basketball teams. There will be a lot of giveaways, prizes, games and the pre-fiesta starts at 6pm. Doors open at 8:15 and 1200 free t-shirts will be given out. There will also be a Shoot Out for Tuition where tickets are given to students randomly and names will be called out to be given free state tuition for the spring semester. Prizes also include a 42 inch tv, gaming system, Beat headphones and some other goodies. We always have a lot of students participate with a big crowd as well. Staff and Faculty are welcome to join us. The Event will be held on Wednesday, October 17th. Event is open to everyone.

Yeli: ABC vision Campaign: is a program for school kids in the area that is being provided by Times Square Optical. For every employee from TAMIU who purchases adult eyeglasses, the optical will donate to a child in need of eye-glasses up to \$200.

VIII. Open Floor:

Cihlalli Perez: Today is the last day to register to vote. Register downstairs in the Student Center until 4pm.

Ana Vargas: Early voting sites will be open October 30-31st from 9am-7pm in WHTC. **Jorge Dimas:** One week away from Open House for Graduate School. As an employee of the university you have new rates you don't pay the same amounts as any other grad student. This will be Thursday from 5:30 -7:30pm please stop by the Zaffirini building. **Jan Aspelund:** Form/application must be filled out before classes start in order to be eligible in the graduate program and it is available under the HR website under forms. **Michelle Begwin:** We will be having the Italian night dinner with Chef Pete Mims, those of you who are interested in making homemade pasta from scratch and making special sauces that will be available to you and also, there will be a wine education class and a line dancing class just in time for those Christmas Parties. Please email me with

questions and I have provided flyers incase you are interested. **Jackelyn Briseno:** Tamiu also offers employees and 1 hour and a half a week for your class time. That is something you can definitely take advantage of. **Jan Aspelund:** HEB and student health center are sponsoring Flu shots on Thursday, October 11th from 10am to 12pm in De La Chica room. They are offering Flu, Tetanus and Pertussis. There is an announcement in today's email. **Kristina Valenciano:** Email reminder regarding Wellness Wednesday has been sent out for the month of October, during lunch and we will be showing the 45 min video of "Chasing the Dragon". **Rocio Garcia:** There will be some games on Thursday we have a women's soccer game at 7, playing against Lubbock and then at the same time we have a volleyball game vs DBU. Then Saturday at noon we have volleyball playing at St. Edwards, and there will be a little clinic for those of you who want to bring their children to play with the volleyball players. Then at 2:30 there will be a men's soccer game against DBU. **San Juanita Guerra:** To add to the volleyball game on October 13th they are doing a collection drive, the girls have been hosting various donation drives and all the benefits go to our very own Dusty's Food Pantry. We are looking for specific things and there will be a flyer going around, like non-perishable breakfast items. So if you can't make it to the game but want to donate you can always come by Dusty's food pantry and donate your items. Instant noodles, individually packed cereal and breakfast bars are requested. Also asking for any toiletry items, like soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant. Please donate in room 226 STC. Please also bring in your reusable bags.

- IX. Door Prizes:** Flora Bocanegra, Jackelyn Briseno, Ana Vargas, Adriana Rodriguez, Rocio Garcia, Emily Lerma, Veronica Garcia, Jan Aspelund, Jessica Chandarlis, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Priscilla Martinez.
- X. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:58am. Motioned by Lorenzo Rodriguez and Kristina Valenciano seconded.