

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

## Meeting Minutes July 14, 2020 2 PM- Virtual Meeting

**Attendance:** Ana Vargas, Abigail Fernandez, Ana Gonzalez, Ana Salazar, Anabelly Sanchez, Armandina Ramos, Ashley Carey, Brittany Cedillo, Fabian Castillo, Cindy Villarreal, Maria D. De la Garza, Cindy Villarreal, Claudia Ortiz, Patsy Lopez, Mindy Downie, Anette Lara, Connie Guzman, Daniela Maldonado, Diana Blackwell, Elsa Real, Erika Noyola, Gladys Perez, Heather Benavidez, Hilda Dennis, Jake Hudspeth, Jan Aspelund, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Perez, Jesus Ruiz, Juan M. Martinez Jr., Juan Perez, Juana Villagran, Kathy Casares, Kelly Higgins, Kristina Valenciano, Leonela Preciado, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Lucia Maldonado, Margarita Johnson, Maria Arce, Maria Blasco, Marycarmen Salinas, Melinda Elizondo, Melissa Dominguez, Merari Teran, Michelle Begwin, Michelle Espinoza, Martha Laura Medina, Amy Palacios, Priscilla Martinez, Petra Vela, Rebecca Delgado, Rocio Garcia, Rodney McConnell, Rosalinda Ochoa, Ruby Rodriguez, Sarah Roesch, Valentina Flores, Virginia Lopez, Victor Sanchez, Veronica Juarez, Virginia Lopez, Yadira Ramirez, Yelitza Howard, Cihlalli Perez, Lisa Salazar

- I. Welcome: Ana Vargas called the meeting to order at 2:00pm
- II. Minutes (Review and Approval): Cihlalli Perez and Leonela Preciado
- III. Treasurer's report: \$3333.49; still pending \$156 check from Chili's
- IV. **Open Enrollment/Benefits - Ashley Carey, Human Resources Employee Benefits Representative**
  - PowerPoint presented; July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> is open enrollment to make changes to your benefits
  - There has been changes to the following:
    - Flexible spending account max increased from \$2700 to \$2750 for new plan year. If you want to keep FSA, you will need to re-enroll during open enrollment. Use your funds before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Superior Vision - Premiums are increasing slightly to include additional coverage for polycarbonate lenses and standard anti-reflecting coating
    - Delta Dental - Laredo ONLY has PPO providers. If you are electing dental, or if you previously had DeltaCare HMO, be sure to switch to PPO Policy.
    - BCBS – For full time employees, premiums are staying the same for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. For part-time and graduate assistants, premiums increasing slightly.
    - Life Insurance and Accidental Death & Dismemberment - The Hartford is the new carrier. Basic life premium will be slightly lower, but no other plan change.
    - Evidence of Insurability (EOI) will be through Securian until August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you make changes to your life insurance and EOI is required, you will receive a new EOI to your inbox on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Do not ignore the notification.
    - Blue Distinction Centers is a specialty care program that is now included
    - Health and well-being programs - Naturally Slim (Metabolic Syndrome Reversal Program), Omada (Obesity-related Chronic Disease Prevention Solutions), Livongo (Diabetes Management), HingeHealth (Musculoskeletal), and Livongo (Hypertension), OviaHealth (Maternity and Family); beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Virtual visits - MD Live through phone and computer. Anything not major and can be done

virtually. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, it will cost \$10 per visit.

- Two-step wellness program - Completing two items from your personalized checklist will ensure that you have the lowest rate for your health insurance premiums. Completion was extended from June 30<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> can be found on MyEvide (tamus.myevive.com); it is easier to access using personal email and not your work one.
- MyEvide can be installed onto a cellphone. After logging in, search through icons and find TAMUS two-step. Under “My Incentive Status”, it will show you are looking at the 2020 checklist. It does not have to be a wellness exam. As long as it’s two items from the six that can be chosen. Once two are completed, your premium incentive is earned. Only you can see your own list, no one else. All the HR office can see is if the two items have been completed.
- Open enrollment website (<https://www.tamus.edu/business/benefits-administration/open-enrollment/>)- Site is a good place for more info, if there are any questions. Video on website will go over all changes to insurance. Benefit booklet will have more information. “What’s new” section on site will have a list of the changes. There will be a form that allows employees to submit any questions. You can call in for any questions or an email can be sent. There is an open enrollment training on TrainTraQ which is not required, but can be taken for more information.
  - Q: Is the copay going up for BCBS?
    - A: \$20 for primary and \$30 for specialist copay. It will be the same.
  - Q: Where is the incentive showing?
    - A: Review this information during open enrollment in case of changes and complete with correct information. It will only show up when the steps are done and it will not be listed anywhere
  - Q: Are links to presentations on HR website?
    - They are not on the website but there are links in Uconnect with information about open enrollment. There’s some information from June.
  - Q: I think (the credit) shows when you enroll. Is that correct?
    - A: If it has been completed, it will show. But if not completed, it will not show up.
  - Q: Retirement Information?
    - Non-retirement vendors have not been asked to join open enrollment. Information can be found in the HR page about voluntary retirement and enroll.
  - Q: Do we know when free COVID testing will be on campus for staff & students? I saw news report on KGNS
    - A: All questions will need to be sent to Jan Aspelund for any COVID questions.

#### V. Staff Senate News

- Elections - last day of voting, swear-in of new officers in August meeting
  - Previously had voting period scheduled from July 7 – July 14. Voting period will now be open for one week July 13 – July 20. It will close at 5 p.m. on July 20.
  - August 11<sup>th</sup> will have the swearing in of new officers
    - Please find the 2020-2021 TAMIU Staff Senate Executive Board Election Ballot at the following link:  
<https://forms.gle/wAk3AJCgk155ycVa7>
- Propose for a vote to discuss the amendments to the Staff Senate Bylaws
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ana Vargas and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mindy Downie
  - Have a sign in for people to join for the bylaws reviews
  - By Laws Review Sign-In Form: <https://forms.gle/NnAc3KRcvH2zP2s7A>

VI. TAMIU News

- Open Enrollment for Benefits-Eligible Employees and Retirees - Ongoing until Friday, July 31.
- Summer Session II - Began Monday, July 6, fully online. Ongoing until Wednesday, August 5.
- Sub-term II – Began Monday, July 6, fully online. Ongoing until Friday, August 21.
- TAMIU CARES Summer II Application – Opening week of Monday, July 13. Closing Wednesday, July 22 at 5 p.m.

VII. Open floor

- Martha Laura Medina: Tomorrow, July 15, is Tax Day. AS VITA Coordinator, I'm doing tax returns for TAMIU employees. Contact me to arrange drop off. mmedina@tamiu.edu. Thanks.
- Leonela Preciado: Gave thanks to staff. The 24-hour online donation campaign for the TAMIU Garden was successful. Asked for anyone to help join the 100 donor mark or the 2000 dollar mark. Site: <https://go.tamiu.edu/garden-donation>. Donation website still open to see if the marks will hit.
- Mindy Downie from College of Education: Announcement about accepting registrations for the Summer of Sanford Parent Camps; virtual trainings. Link: <https://tamiucoe17.wufoo.com/forms/summer-of-sanford-parent-camps/#ih>
- Kristina Valenciano: Reminder that Wellness Olympics are still going on. Encouraging letters to any wellness caretaker to show appreciation. Letters can be dropped off at the information desk. It can be a simple thank you letter to show them appreciation. Letters can be put into a plastic bag and not in an envelope and state to who you want to address.
- Michelle Begwin: Announcement regarding Professional Development workshops for students from Career Services. She mentioned an event with A&M Commerce with a panel on July 22<sup>nd</sup>; keep an eye on posts about the event.
- Question: Would like clarification regarding campus response to increased COVID-19 cases in the community. Is the campus supposed to be at 50%? Are there any updates?
  - We will work on obtaining information. The COVID-19 website will have more information or contact Jan from HR for she is handling COVID-19 questions.

VIII. Adjournment

- Heather Benavides and Martha Medina @ 2:55 pm