

TAMIU



STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2019 – 2:00 P.M. - STC 231

- **Attendance** – Cihtlalli Perez, Jackelyne Briseno, Heather Benavides, Lisa Salazar, Carla Luna, Leonela Preciado, Anna Gonzalez, Jazmin Gibeaut, Flora Bocanegra, Martha Laura Medina, Melissa Dominguez, Juanita Villagran, Merari Teran, Priscilla Martinez, Michelle Espinoza, Rosalinda Ochoa, Pat Abrego, Jan Aspelund, Enrique Botello, Maria Gonzalez, Alma Guardiola, Armandina Ramos, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Yelitza Howard, Ana Vargas, Gloria Sanchez
- **Welcome** - Gloria Sanchez called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.
- **Minutes (Review and Approval):** Cihtlalli Perez and Jackelyne Briseno
- **Treasurer's Report-** Incorrect balance at \$3038 for Book Scholarship Funds was removed from incorrect account. The correct Balance is \$3399
- **VITA**
 - Dr. Jack Byham and Dr. Jody Carlisle presented.
 - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is the full name of VITA.
 - It is a volunteer program to prepare taxes for free for low to moderate income population in South Texas.
 - Last year, 174 volunteers signed up to the program; both TAMIU students and employees.
 - It is an opportunity to help the community and learn a new skill.
 - Volunteers are trained in November, December, and January and certified by the IRS. There are 19 different sites in Laredo and Zapata County to prepare taxes; a list of tax preparations sites was shown.
 - It is provided for families who make \$66,000 dollars or less but anyone who works for TAMIU, it is done for free.
 - A 30 second commercial was shown that is currently being aired on KGNS.
 - For anyone wanting to volunteer or more information, it can be found on their site <http://www.laredovita.org> . Classes are currently being taught and will continue till January.
- **Staff Senate News**
 - Chili's Fundraiser November
 - This year, both Chili's participated in the fundraiser. Participants just had to mention it when they order their meal to participate in the fundraiser.
 - Save the Date – Holiday Gala
 - Reminder was sent out and invitations were planned to be sent out the following day. It was mentioned about accepting Dusty Food Pantry donations at the door. Gala details were mentioned about choices to attend just dinner, the dance, or both as well as a vegetarian plate or not option.
 - Jamboozie Review
 - Staff Senate volunteered in the finance office and for our time, Jamboozie coordinators donated a check to the staff senate.
- **TAMIU News**
 - Service Learning Expo – November 15 and 25th
 - Classes that students are enrolled and do service to the community as part of their class. Enrolled students got to explain to students and staff what they learned through the experience.
 - Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 2nd
 - Information was provided about what kind of event it was and the planned starting time at 7:30pm.

- **Open Floor**

- Pat Abrego – Presented to the staff senate about a balanced flex schedule proposal for during the summer hours. This idea was brought up for not every employee would need to have summer flex hours; it would be based on the employee selecting to have flex hours or to keep their regular schedule. It will depend on their department head on what schedule will work with the employee. A survey was mentioned to present to staff to gather their thoughts and opinion about the idea. It is also for composing the proposal to present to the president.
- Yelitza Howard- Introduced new employee in Career Services Carla Luna. Gloria Sanchez introduced Yeli as the New Director of Career Services. Spoke about a short informal presentation by Jazmin Gomez for the following day during an event called Coffee House Wednesday. The Friday after, Yeli presented a workshop about undeclared/undecided people.
- Jazmin Gomez - An on campus leadership conference offered for undergraduate and graduate students and we were asked to sign up a session proposal on Uconnect about doing a session about a topic you are passionate about.
- Anna Vargas - Giving Day was starting the following week and it was for the 50 hours for 50 years event. We were asked to share information about the event for people to donate sessions and was promoted with food in the rotunda for anyone.

- **Door Prizes**

1. Anna Vargas
2. Armandina Ramos
3. Heather Benavides
4. Juanita Villagran
5. Jan Aspelund
6. Jackelyne Briseno
7. Flora Bocanegra
8. Merari Teran

- **Adjournment** - 2:55pm - 1st Priscilla Martinez & 2nd Heather Benavides