

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

Meeting Agenda Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:00pm | Webex

Executive Board: Ana Vargas, Cihlalli Perez, Kristina Valenciano, Priscilla Martinez, Patsy Lopez, Erika Noyola, Gloria Sanchez, Vanessa Garcia, Yelitza Howard

Attendees: Jessica Acosta Lopez, Adan Sanchez, Elaine Almaraz-Ortega, Amy Sandoval, Anna Garza, Alice Arce Armandina, Mariana Barberana Asiain, Andrea Beattie, Claudia Beltran, Rosario Benavides, Maria M. Blasco, Ashley L. Carey, Carmen, Kathy A Casares, Brittany L. Cedillo, Gabriela Chapa, Erestina Vela, Melinda Ayala-Diaz], Gabriela Rodriguez, Anette Lara, Athena V. Cortez, Lorissa Cortez, Amy L. Cortina, Rebecca S. Delgado, Melissa J. Dominguez, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Elsa, Erika Cantu, Samuel Flores, Ana M. Gonzalez, Margaret D. Gonzalez, Ann E Gutierrez, Jake Hudspeth, Ledith Ramirez, Leonela, Virginia A Lopez, Rosa D. Luna, Sofia C. Maldonado, Maria D. Mancha, Ana K Manrique, Maria Elena Hernandez, Maria Julia Pena, Mariana Gonzalez, Cynthia Martinez, Elena M. Martinez, Elizabeth Martinez, Vanessa F. Martinez, Martha L. Medina, Erika Medrano, Amy Palacios, Andrea L. Pawelek, Gladys D. Perez
Vanessa A. Ramirez, Blanca E. Ramos, Raquel Urritia, Rebecca, Rene G. Diaz, Andria H. Rodriguez, Amy Rodriguez, Norma L Rodriguez, Lisa Salazar, Maria I. Salazar, Marycarmen Salinas, Anabelly Sanchez, San Juanita Vela, Edelmiro Santos Jr., Jonathan P. Serna, Jessica Tamez, Merari T. Teran, Vanessa Almaraz, Vanessa Vallarta, Jessica Vasquez, Azeneth Vazquez, Juana E. Villagran, Sandra Villanueva, Georgina Zamudio

I. Welcome

- Staff Senate President Ana Vargas called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

II. Review of June meeting minutes

Motion to approve June meeting minutes:

- Lorissa Cortez 1st Motion
- Merari Teran 2nd Motion

III. Treasurer's report: \$4,391.00

IV. Speaker/Presentation:

- **Ashley or Alice - Human Resources Open Enrollment**
 - July is the month for open enrollment.
 - There are a series of virtual open enrollment sessions.
 - Every six years there is a request for proposal. This year, Express Scripts was looked into for prescriptions, and will remain as the prescription drug carrier and 2ndMD will remain as the second opinion provider.
 - For dental, in Laredo we only have PPO providers. This morning's session made mention of HMO, in Laredo there are no HMO providers. On occasion if an employee has an address in a different city, you may have the option for HMO or PPO.
 - For this year, night guards are added to Delta Dental PPO programs.
 - Two-step wellness program will continue and need to be completed as soon as possible for credit prior to September 1, 2021.

- For fiscal year 2022, there will be a new checklist to complete for the following school year beginning September 1, 2022. There will be additional items to the list to simplify the two-step requirement.
 - Dental cleanings added to the credit checklist. Claims must be processed through Delta dental PPO.
 - For those with vision insurance, eye exams will count as well through A&M Care plan or Superior Vision.
 - Wonder Health formerly Naturally Slim also added to the checklist.
- Regarding costs and coverages, employee premiums for full-time for the sixth year in a row, premiums will remain the same. Some eligible part-time employees may see an increase in premiums.
- For employees changing age brackets in life insurance may notice payment increases.
- **Reminders:**
 - If employees are increasing their optional, dependent, or spouse life coverage you may be subject to evidence of insurability.
 - Once completed open enrollment, in early august you will receive an email in your Work Day inbox for the evidence of insurability link.
 - If evidence of insurability is not submitted, it will not be approved.
 - When it comes to open enrollment, if you are adding a dependent for the first time, there is a three-step process for creating a dependent file.
 - First, create a dependent profile in Workday through benefits app under dependent and add documentation.
 - Second, provide dependent documentation for your benefits office in HR connect legacy. Documentation can be submitted to Alice or via the provided link once the profile has been created.
 - Third, manually add the dependent to coverage through Workday.
 - Flexible spending accounts including health spending or dependent day care, you must enroll every year. The IRS does not allow the system to assume that you want to continue with that plan, so it is important to re-sign up during open enrollment.
 - Beneficiaries need to be reviewed or added. If anything happens to you, your life insurance will go to family.
 - Employees and retirees also need to add dependent social security number. In cases of non-US Citizens, a SSN will not be required.
 - For more information contact: Alice Arce at (956) 326-2339; alice.arce@tamiu.edu
 - Open enrollment website: <https://www.tamus.edu/business-benefits/administration/open-enrollment/>
 - Resources on the Workday help website under job aid.
- **Questions:**
 - Q: what are the most common questions you have been receiving?
 - A: none specific, but some people are in search of premium information or other information specific to them. Has been more of an individualized situation.
 - Q: Where do we see the age brackets regarding life insurance increase?
 - A: Open enrollment website, under employee booklet there will be more information and show you the breakdown of premium information.
- **Open enrollment sessions:**
 - Four more sessions taking place virtually.
 - Hosted by other system institutions, but the benefits remain the same for all system employees.

- Pre-recorded carrier sessions also available.

V. Staff Senate News

- **Dustdevils in Denim Fundraiser Update**

- www.alumni.tamtu.edu/dustdevildenim
- Fundraiser is ongoing.
- Fundraiser approved by TAMTU Administration.
- Raised over \$700.00.
- Encouraged to wear a Maroon or work appropriate top with jeans.

- **Election Updates for Staff Senate Board 2021-2022**

- Election ballot sent via email.
- Contact Parliamentarian Erika Noyola, currently overseeing elections for next year's board.
- Erika Noyola: (956) 326-2711; erika.noyola@tamtu.edu

- **Upcoming Staff Senate Survey**

- Will encourage staff to share thoughts and opinions about services staff senate has to offer, and suggested meeting platforms.

- **University Updates**

- Executive council meeting took place last Monday.
- Student Success thanks everyone who assisted in Dusty Camp 1 (189 students attended and 80 stayed overnight).
- Possible plan to have a music concert for students before the 1st day of fall classes tentative for Sunday, August 22, 2021.
- Study abroad planned to resume starting wintermester 2022.
- Workday evaluations for staff will change to line up with merit approximately Aug. 15 to Oct. 15.
 - Merit notifications will be sent in November and merit will be applied beginning December.
- Social distancing protocols for fall semester will be skip a seat.
- Food court and Starbucks seating readjusted.
- Facility projects underway.
 - FPA 2nd floor carpet removed.
 - Damage repair work starting in the FPA recital hall lobby due to the winter storm.
 - Restrooms in the second floor of the Student Center will be remodeled to match the 1st floor restrooms.
 - New simulation lab in Canseco Hall completed this month.
 - The fish lab is moving out of Canseco 2nd floor and into Cowart 1st floor north side.
 - OIT help desk moving to Cowart 1st floor in the old golden corral space.
 - RLC has new mattresses, floors, and paint.
 - There is a plan to install water bottle fill stations across campus (not turning on water fountains yet).
 - Plans to add touchless paper towel dispensers across campus.
 - New irrigation tank installed by UPD.
- **CARES Updates**
 - Initiative that started called "fresh Start" that wiped away over 1 million dollars in TAMTU student balances.
 - TAMTU books included where student have access to required course materials through blackboard starting the fall semester.
- **Protocol Updates**
 - If you are vaccinated and travel internationally, you do not need to quarantine upon return.

- If you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, you have to quarantine for up to ten days. Within five days, you can be tested and with a negative result, you need to continue to quarantine for 7 days.
 - If they are completely unvaccinated, they need to quarantine for the entire ten days.
- **International calling will go away Sept. 1 (TexAm Code)**
 - If your office has a need for international calling that cannot be done through any other way, contact Mr. Juan Castillo.

VI. TAMIU News

- **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Updates**
 - Continue visiting student health website for updates
 - National Guard is hosting vaccinations and testing with no appointment required.
 - Contact Event services for rapid testing information.
 - Curative testing located in kiosk located between Pellegrino and Canseco
 - Binax testing locations vary.
 - Open to entire Laredo community.
 - Student health website: [Services \(tamiu.edu\)](https://services.tamiu.edu)
- **Summer and Fall Academic Dates**
 - Wednesday, August 4th is the last day for SSIII and SSII Friday, August 20
 - Fall and fall sub-term 1 first class day will be August 23, 2021.
- **ERT and HRT for Full-time Employees**
 - ERT-Education Release Time for full-time employees.
 - HRT-Health Release Time- full-time employees receive 30-minutes of work release time for approved healthy U events or Rec center use.
- **Dusty Camp Updates**
 - Dusty camp II ongoing today.
 - Dusty camp III – Friday, July22 – Saturday 23 with overnight stay option.
 - Dusty camp IV - July 29-30 with overnight stay option.
 - Virtual Dusty Camp V – August 5 -6.
 - Dusty camp VI – August 19 – 20 for International students.
 - More information in SOLE website www.tamiu.edu/sole
- **Healthy U Updates**
 - Desk to 5K was a successful with a great turn out of walkers and runners.
 - Yogilaties taking place during July contact Kristina Valenciano at (956)326-2930.
 - Taking place Thursdays at 5:30pm at the Rec center
 - Healthy U provides the 2-week rec sports fitness pass STC 127
 - Bodily webinar part of the Dusty Olympics
 - Meditation Mondays are ongoing and calendar invites sent via email.
 - Family game night taking place October 2021.
 - Staff and faculty with their families are welcome to join.
 - Questions about Healthy U at healthyu@tamiu.edu or Kristina.valenciano@tamiu.edu
- **Updated UConnect Platform**
 - UConnect has been relaunched
 - Share about your experience regarding UConnect platform.
 - ucreloaded@tamiu.edu

VII. Open floor

- PR Office – Be a Champ Get The Shot
 - Part of the White House and US Dept. of Ed. initiative.
 - “COVID-19” College Vaccine Challenge.
 - Open to students and are eligible to win various door prizes.

- Fully vaccinated employees can submit vaccination card into the Red Cap portal and entered to win prizes.
- www.go.tamtu.edu/beachamp
- Q: Any news if we are having the Holiday Gala?
 - A: No news yet, but it is on the radar and looking into.
- Q: Any updates on having Catapult in the coming year.
 - A. Will likely be here in the fall and spring. Working with the new representative to secure some dates. Possibly closer to November or early spring.

VIII: Door Prizes

- Patricia Lopez
- Mariana Barberena Asiain
- Amy L. Cortina
- Rebecca Delgado
- Georgina Zamudio

IX: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn:

- Martha Laura Medina 1st Motion
- Cihtlalli Perez 2nd Motion

Time: 2:50pm