

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

Meeting Agenda Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:00pm | Webex

Executive Board: Ana Vargas, Cihtlalli Perez, Erika Noyola, Kristina Valenciano, Priscilla Martinez, Patsy Lopez, Gloria Sanchez

Attendees: Adriana Rodriguez, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Alejandro Martinez, Alice Arce, Alicia Segovia, Amelia Rodriguez, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Ana Gonzalez, Anabelly Sanchez, Andrea Beattie, Anna Garza, Armandina Ramos, Becky Litman, Blanca Ramos, Fabian Castillo, Christopher Segovia, Cindy Villarreal, Claudia Ortiz, Cynthia Martinez, Daniel Salazar, Daniela Maldonado, David Pina, Diana Carolina Valdez, Erika Medrano, Francisco Vera, Gladys Perez, Hilda Dennis, Isaiah Saucedo, Ivan Cano, Javier Jimenez, Jennifer Torres, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Vasquez, Jesus Ruiz, Juan Perez, Julie Barrera, Karla Leal, Kathy Casares, Leonela Preciado, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Margaret Gonzalez, Maria Blasco, Maria D De La Garza, Maria Elena Hernandez, Maria Flores-Westerman, Mariana Barberena Asiain, Mary Trevino, Merari Teran, Michelle Espinoza, Mindy Ayala-Diaz, Martha Laura Medina, Norma Rodriguez, Ofelia Maldonado, Rebecca Delgado, Roberto Garza III, Roberto Torres Saenz, Maria I Salazar, San Juana Guzman, Tracie Vogel, Diana Valdez, Vanessa Ramirez, Veronica Juarez, Virginia Lopez, Yaritza Cadena, Yaritza Lopez, Yelitza Howard

I. Welcome

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

II. Review of January meeting minutes

Motion to approve January meeting minutes:

- Cihtlalli Perez 1st motion
- Margaret Gonzalez 2nd motion

III. Treasurer's report: \$1,621

IV. Speaker/Presentation:

- Recreational Sports

Ivan Cano – Recreational Sports Specialist; ivan.cano@tamiu.edu; 956-326-3013

- Safety practices have been established at the TAMIU Rec. Center. The Rec. Center is continuously cleaned and disinfected. The speaker shared a video orienting viewers on a virtual tour and services at the Rec. Center. The outside facility is currently unavailable as it is currently utilized for COVID-19 testing.
- Reservation times = The Rec. center does not open before 8:00am, but employees are able to schedule their preferred work-out times.
- Employees can make a reservation at ext. 2289 or ext. 3013.
- Locker rooms and showers are currently unavailable.
- HealthyU provides a two-week Rec. Center Pass. Contact Kristina Valenciano at kristina.valenciano@tamiu.edu; EXT 2930.
- Rec Center Rules = Work out with a mask worn properly. Clean machines after use.
- Two membership pricing options = automatic payroll deduction of \$25.00 or pay month-to-month as there is no contract.
- Employee families qualify as affiliates with a membership at \$30.00 monthly.
- If an employee is not into physical fitness, another program launched is virtual gaming program.
- Follow on Twitch account and students stream live Monday-Saturday.
- Video gaming tournaments available.

- Contact the Rec. Center to share about your events that can be posted on the center's Facebook and Twitch accounts.

Juan Perez – Strength and Conditioning Specialist; juang.perez@tamiu.edu; 956-326-3012

- Fitness Schedule = Virtual group workouts.
- Link: <https://www.tamiu.edu/recsports/>
- Rec. Center membership is not required to access virtual fitness classes.
- Modified virtual fitness classes utilize minimal to no equipment, however, an equipment loan program is in the process.
- Some fitness classes include: Mind and Body, Stretch and Flex, HIIT, Cardio Kick Boxing, Martial Arts, Tae Kwan Do, Big Buff and Beautiful, etc.
- Personal training program started last week, there is an option of FTF or virtual sessions.
- 5K Run Your Heart Out event starting this Friday, February 12, 2021. Turn on app on your phone or other tracking device and track your 5k, take a screenshot, and email to Xcaret Ramirez at xcaret.ramirez@tamiu.edu for a chance to win a prize. She can also be reached at ext. 3016.
- Outdoor Adventures Program will feature basic survival, first aid, outdoor boot camp classes.
 - Program taking place from March 1st thru May. Classes are progressive.

REC Sports Q and A

- **Q: Are the classes onsite or Webex?**
A: Group fitness classes are online. Starting in March, Big Buff and Beautiful will move to FTF. Virtual classes are free. PW: TAMIU. Classes for personal training are sold per session at a low cost about \$15.00 per session per person. The more sessions purchased, the lower the price.
- **Q: What is the cost for these classes?**
A: Group fitness is absolutely free.
- **Q: What kind of martial arts classes are taking place?**
A. Tae Kwon Do: focused more on technique. Cardio kick boxing: focuses on exercises. Zumba currently not available, but in the process. Fitness library is in process.

V. Staff Senate News

● **COVID-19 Vaccine Updates- Juan Castillo**

- **Q: Will there be COVID vaccines for staff on campus at some point in the not so distant future? If so, will there be specific days only for staff? Or will there be days for all TAMIU community and/or the general public?**
A: We certainly hope so. TAMIU was one of the few institutions of higher education that applied to be a vaccination center. Having received this designation, we are bound to follow protocols set by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSH). Central to these protocols are that we cannot restrict our operation solely to University employees.
- **Q: Will it be based on the survey that was sent? (Note: This is in reference to an email Dr. Minita Ramirez sent on Thursday, January 7 to All Employees to get a better idea of how many would qualify for the vaccines using the requirements set forth by the CDC, State and City health officials).**
A: It depends. To date we have sent several surveys. The first was directed primarily at nursing personnel and included some local ISD nurses. The second was directed to our employees and TAMIU retirees age 65 and above. The third (which you are referring to) was sent to all employees asking if employees with a medical qualifying condition wanted the vaccine. The final went to student nurses whose coursework will require them to be in a hospital setting. These surveys cover employees and community members in the 1a and 1b TDSH phase 1 categories. To date, we have only received 200 first doses. Depending on the size/timing of our next allocation, we will return to our survey responses prioritizing them as follows: student nurses (1a), employees/retirees 65 and over (1b), and those with qualifying medical conditions (1b).

- **Q: How would we register for vaccines?**

A: If we maintain our current processes, appointments will be sent via email based on the order in which survey replies were received. All of this is subject to change depending on future allocations and protocols from TDSH. There is no guarantee that employees will be able to get their vaccine onsite, and in fact, employees should be encouraged to get the vaccine wherever they can if the option becomes available to them.

- **Book Scholarship**

- Now open and accepting applications.
- Deadline is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th, 2021.
- Previous recipients are also welcome to apply for the scholarship.
- <https://www.tamtu.edu/staffsenate/bookscholarship.shtml>

VI. TAMIU News

- **Aramark Services Updates - Yaritza Cadena**

- Unable to present at this time.

- **TAMIU Garden Updates - Christopher Segovia**

- Grass roots project.
- 85% of produce will be donated and 15% donated to garden volunteers.
- Located behind the Rec. Center and next to Zaffirini Student Success Center
- Anyone is welcome. Meet Wednesday from 5:00 -8:00pm
- Social media page is up and coming.
- COVID-19 safety measures of wearing a mask and social distancing are adhered.
- For more information: christopher.segovia@tamtu.edu

- **COVID-19 On-Campus Testing Updates**

- Testing has resumed for the month of February.
- February testing dates: 16, 17, 23, 24

VII. Open floor

- **Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Consent Week**

- Consent Coloring Contest: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cUVzZ-EsA27Ve-1vb2W6G_hQUezZYQFI
- Wednesday - Design a Consent Valentine
- Thursday - Self-Love and Well-Being Virtual Session
- Friday – Virtual Green Dot Session and Title IX Workshop
- Contact = 326-2858
- <https://www.tamtu.edu/compliance/TitleIX/consentweekflyer2021.pdf>

- **TAMIU Alumni Association**

- Donating \$1,000 to the program that receives the most votes.
- <https://alumni.tamtu.edu/s/1930/bp20/interior.aspx?sid=1930&gid=2&pgid=634>
- Alumni Association menu and selected Spread the Love.
- Deadline is Monday, Feb. 15
- Funds eligible for your vote= Dusty's Food Pantry, Book Scholarship, Student Emergency Fund, or Area of Greatest Need

- **VITA Program**

- Services available by appointment for tax preparation.
- For a full list of sites and tax preparation requirements go to www.vitalaredo.org
- **VITA Volunteer opportunity**
 - Basic Tax Law Class Feb 8-12 5:30-9:00 p.m.
 - Basic Tax Law Class 13th and 20th from 9-5 p.m. at the TAMIU AIC Rm. 109
 - Sign up to volunteer at vitalaredo@gmail.com or 956-307-8138

- **HealthyU - Kristina Valenciano**
 - HEB webinar featuring a registered dietician on preparing healthy meals.
 - Taking place on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 2:00pm.
 - https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I6ZYcpiWRGusRyBViUlhw
- **Book Scholarship**
 - **Q:** Do you have to purchase the course books first and a refund is made? Is the scholarship also for first time recipients?
 - **A:** Yes, have to purchase books first because will require the receipts. Will not be able to reward scholarship without receipt. Scholarship is open for anyone who has not applied before or those who have received an award before.

VIII: Door Prizes

- Ivan Cano
- Roberto Torres Saenz
- Cynthia Martinez
- Erika Noyola
- Amy Rodriguez

IX: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn:

- Martha Laura Medina 1st motion
- Mindy Ayala-Diaz from COED 2nd motion

Time: 2:52 p.m.