

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

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

**Executive Board:** Ana Vargas, Cihtlalli Perez, Kristina Valenciano, Priscilla Martinez, Patsy Lopez, Yelitza Howard, Gloria Sanchez

**Attendees:** Pablo Arenaz, Andrea Pawelek, Adriana Rodriguez, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Alice Arce, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Ana Gonzalez, Anabelly Sanchez, Andrea Beattie, Anna Garza, Armandina Ramos, Blanca Ramos, Carla Luna, Carmen, Cynthia Martinez, Daniela Maldonado, Daniela Rodriguez, Diana Valdez, Edelmiro Santos, Eliza Guzman, Elizabeth Martinez, Elsa. Real, Erika Cantu, Gabriela Rodriguez, Georgina Zamudio, Gloria Sanchez, Heather Benavides, Hilda Dennis, Jake Hudspeth, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Tamez, Jessica Vasquez, Juan Cisneros III, Juan Balderas, Juana Villagran, Julio Medina, Kathy Casares, Leonela Preciado, Leticia Cruz, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Luis Vasquez, Maggie Blasco, Margaret Gonzalez, Martha Medina, Maria Elena Hernandez, Mary Trevino, Merari Teran, Michelle Espinoza, Mirasol Tabarez, Nancy Colchado, Nayeli Lopez Diaz, Norma Rodriguez, Pedro Gallegos, Raquel Urrutia, Rocio Garcia, Rosa Luna, Sandra Villanueva, Stephanie N. Hernandez, Valdez Diana Carolina, Vanessa Martinez, Vanessa Ramirez, Virginia Lopez, Virginia Morales, Griz Zimmerman

### I. Welcome

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

### II. Review of March meeting minutes

#### Motion to approve March meeting minutes:

- Merari Teran 1<sup>st</sup> motion
- Juana Villagran 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

### III. Treasurer's report: \$1,621.00

### IV. Speaker/Presentation:

- **Office of the President – Dr. Arenaz**
  - Summer semesters: Putting in to place safety measures for face-to-face classes. The system would like for universities to begin getting back to as normal as possible beginning in July.
  - TAMIU will be moving slowly to gauge what will happen. As we move into the fall we will continue with mask policy as long as the Governor of the State says that we can.
  - There may be some mask policy modifications such as: *While practicing social distancing outside then a mask may not be required, but in situations where you cannot practice social distancing outside you would still have to wear a mask and indoors, a mask is required: This idea is not yet set in stone.*
  - Testing continues on campus even if you have been vaccinated out of precaution, because a person can still contract a mild form of the virus. Testing for COVID-19 through the end of May.
  - Curative testing on Tuesday and summer into the fall, Kiosks will be available for all employees, staff, and students to test.
- **Vaccination Kiosks**
  - Rapid 15-minute tests.
  - Nasal swab and the swab is applied to a test card.
  - Kiosks may be available across campus.
  - A wrist band can be worn to confirm a negative test result.

- **Vaccination drive continues**
  - Johnson and Johnson vaccine currently unavailable. Six people developed blood clots out of the million doses already administered. Further evaluation by the CDC.
  - Once the J&J is considered safe, it might be available.
  - For those who have not been vaccinated, vaccines will be available, but massive clinics may not be taking place rather vaccines may be available by a couple hundred per week.
  - Focus is on incoming freshman and recommending vaccination during summer orientations.
  - LISD has been focused on vaccinating individuals 18 years and older.
  - Pfizer may be receiving authorization to vaccinate individuals within the ages of 12-15.
  
- **On campus testing continues**
  - No positive cases in over a month, but have also not tested as many individuals.
  
- **Middle of the legislative session**
  - The Senate passed its budget last week and has made it to the House Appropriations Committee and modifications have been made. There has been no impact on our budget in terms of what the Senate in the house bill has done with Article 3.
  - The House Appropriations Committee passed the budget and moving to the Full House to begin deliberation. Once budget is approved by the House, the House and Senate will put together a conference committee and resolve any differences.
  - In the Senate bill, none of the items requested by the institutions with the exception of three or four were put into the budget of Article 11 which is a wish list.
  - On the House side, all of our requests (TRB and LARs) were submitted are in the House bill and will be further reviewed for approval by the conference committee to determine which of those things will actually be approved in the budget.
  
- **Comprehensive Regional University Bill** = potentially gives 27 regional Universities a pot of money. If passed and money is attached to it, it could mean several million dollars added to the budget. Several House members and Senators have signed the bill thus far.
  
- **Gradual Opening of Campus**
  - TAMIU has hosted small conferences complying with social distancing and face coverings.
    - Hosted three external conferences for the City of Laredo Government and Henry Cuellar that consisted of about 50 people.
    - The ballroom was adequate to host these events with proper social distancing.
  - Other student sponsored events are coming up with restrictions.
    - SGA hosting life awards.
    - Student clubs are meeting on campus again.
    - Athletics will be hosting their banquet in spring.
  - Pre-commencement activities will happen on campus.
    - Most events will be drive or walk through to avoid large crowds.
    - Ballroom and recital halls will be used.
  - Three high school graduations on campus at the end of May.
    - Early College and Harmony
    - Small crowd events of no more than 400-500 people.

- TAMIU commencement will be face-to-face.
  - Permission to host commencement at the Sames Auto Arena has been approved by the City of Laredo.
  - Depending on the number of students, commencement will likely be broken down to about 5-6 ceremonies on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May.
  - 300 students per ceremony with 4 guest tickets per graduate.
  - Precautions will be in place including face coverings and social distancing.
  
- **Q &A with the President**
  - **Q:** If a vaccinated faculty, staff, or student is exposed to COVID or has COVID what are the quarantine procedures and will they stay the same?  
**A:** Same established quarantine procedures would apply. However, not sure about what CDC has said about exposure.
  
  - **Q:** If they want to attend a commencement out of state, do they have to stay home after they attend the commencement?  
**A:** Not if vaccinated. Want to get tested 3-5 days upon returning.
  
  - **Q:** Are there any plans for J&J vaccination availability?  
**A:** Until FDA says it is okay, J&J is suspended. For now we are trying to set up something for next week with Gateway, and will be administering Moderna from Gateway.
  
  - **Q:** So far some students have been asking if they are required to have the vaccine when they come on campus for the fall semester. Is this something that will be in place for students?  
**A:** No, not unless the Legislature were to mandate it. The Governor made it clear that nobody can be forced to get vaccines.
  
  - **Q:** Is there any additional information on Dusty Camps?  
**A:** Three out of the four orientations will be FTF and will have the overnight option. Everyone will be rapid tested before they come to the event. Going to try to catch students and vaccinate if they want to be vaccinated during orientation. No camps for minors this summer due to high risk. Could be a liability issue if there were to be an outbreak amongst children.
  
  - **Q:** Not a COVID related question, but is there any update on the use of the 40 million dollar gift?  
**A:** Right now it is sitting in an endowment, and we are working with a couple of potential donors to create some endowed professorships, but right now we do not have any specific plans other than speaking to donors about matching funds. Funds will not be spent on infrastructure or other things, this is to build for the future.
  
  - **Q:** If a person is vaccinated and they are COVID positive, can the employees work from home until they are cleared?  
**A:** Follow the standard protocol for being positive.
  
  - **Q:** Can you elaborate more on what the current protocol is?  
**A:** If you test positive its 14 day quarantine and a negative test.
  
  - **Q:** For the commencement, it is currently four tickets per family, correct?  
**A:** Yes, and it will remain that.

- **Q:** Will the location change?
- **A:** Subject to change for SAC or Shirley Field, but the number of tickets would stay the same.

## V. Staff Senate News

- **Staff Senate Raising Cane's Fundraiser.**
  - Taking place on Tuesday, April 20 from 4-8pm.
  - When ordering, mention TAMIU Staff Senate and we will receive 15% in donation from purchase.

## VI. TAMIU News

- **University Updates**
  - **Commencement:** University exploring in person, limited commencement. No final decision has been made. Planned for Arena and 4 tickets per family.
  - **Vaccines:** Registration open to students and employees.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Moderna dose taking place on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
    - Contact Student health services for more information.
    - If there are future vaccination events, you will receive an email or check for updates via UConnect.
  - **COVID-19 Testing**
    - Continue to test even after being vaccinated.
    - COVID-19 on-campus testing taking place Tuesday, April 20 from 9:00-11:30am and Tuesday, April 27 from 9:30-10:30am.
    - <https://tamus.curativeinc.com>
  - **Campus opening:** Flex during Summer I, FTF Sumer II, and FTF Fall
  - **The Big Event** – Priscilla Martinez; 956-326-2286; [priscillaa.martinez@tamiu.edu](mailto:priscillaa.martinez@tamiu.edu)
    - **Virtual 5K** in support of the University's Student Emergency Fund.
    - Helps support students facing unforeseen hardship throughout the semester such as: housing, utility bills, medical expenses, etc.
    - Taking place Saturday, April 17, 2021.
    - Open to faculty, staff, students, and members of community.
    - All participants must register online with information and registration cost is a minimum donation of \$5.00 to the Giving Campaign.
    - **How it works:** On the day of the event all participants must download the app Run Keeper and create an account. Press start and start running. Need to have the app open throughout the time you are running. Take a screen shot once completed and submit to the SGA email and that will count as your participation. You can participate during any time of the day and any location.
    - **Registration form:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIppS89jqcHQfDi3fvApjhY80b3no7DqNb2LDqtGeYbhykCA/viewform>
    - **Donation Link:**  
<https://alumni.tamiu.edu/s/1930/bp20/project.aspx?sid=1930&gid=2&pgid=676&sitebuilder=1&contentbuilder=1>
    - **Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will receive medals depending on the time of completion of 5K.
    - All participants will receive 5 community service hours.
    - There will be an Instagram photo challenge. Take a picture entering in any of the categories: best selfie, early bird, night owl, furry BFF, Dust Devil spirit, and say cheese using virtual photo booth. Prizes for Instagram photo challenge.
    - **Q:** Does it have to be the Runkeeper App?

- **A:** Yes, we are asking for everyone to use Runkeeper app to keep the event consistent.
- **Compliance Survey Reminder**
  - Service Quality which contains questions about compliance areas.
  - All responses are anonymous.
  - Available through Friday, April 30, 2021.
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCGKPHF>
- **Ongoing Registration**
  - Ongoing registration for Maymester, Summer, and Fall 2021.
  - Employees registered at students, a reminder of employee application for Waiver of Course Fees (tuition discounts for Graduate programs) and Educational Release Time (form to be submitted to HR).
  - Best to submit forms prior to the start of the semester.

## VII. Open floor

- **TED Save the Date!**
  - Virtual event taking place Friday, May 21, 2021 at 9:00am.
- **VITA Tax Preparation**
  - Last day to file at TAMIU is April 30, 2021.
  - [www.vitalaredo.org](http://www.vitalaredo.org)
- **Kristina Valenciano** = Reminder about Catapult visits next Thursday and Friday
  - 2-step process required for BCBS insurance
  - Either take a physical or log-in to My Evive to see what qualifies to complete the 2-step process.
  - Requirements includes spouse if they are a part of your insurance.
  - Virtual visit with Dr. or Nurse Practitioner on site.
- **Earth day/Healthy U activity**
  - 100 packets for planting activity (pot, potting soil, and seeds)
  - Invitation to participate in the event will be sent via email.
- **Michelle = Career Services**
  - Luis Vazquez is the new Career Services Coordinator.
  - Hispanic Serving Institutions Career Collaborative.
    - Taking place the 14th and 15th
    - 14<sup>th</sup> is professional development and 15<sup>th</sup> is the career fair.
    - Collaborating with 14 other Universities with 140 employers that students can connect with.

## VIII: Door Prizes

- Maria Elena Hernandez
- Jessica Tamez
- Daniela Rodriguez
- Ann Gutierrez
- Juana Villagran

## IX: Adjournment

### Motion to adjourn:

- Kristina Valenciano      1<sup>st</sup> motion
- Juana Villagran          2<sup>nd</sup> motion

**Time:** 2:49pm