

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

## Meeting Agenda Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:00pm | Webex

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

**Attendees:** Adan Sanchez, Adriana H. Rodriguez, Alejandra Covarrubias, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Alice Arce, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Amy Sandoval, Anabelly Sanchez, Ana K. Manrique, Ana M. Gonzalez, Andrea Beattie, Andrea Pawelek, Ann E Gutierrez, Anna Garza, Anne Frey, Armandina Ramos, Becky Litman, Blanca Ramos, Brittany Cedillo, Carmen de la Garza, Cesar Caballero, Cindy Villarreal, Claudia Beltran, Celina Calderon, Cristina Calderon, Cynthia Martinez, Daniela Rodriguez, David Pina, Diana Carolina Valdez, Edelmiro Santos, Elizabeth Martinez, Eliza Guzman, Elsa Real, Erestina Vela, Erika Cantu, Gabriela Chapa, Gabriela Rodriguez, Georgina Zamudio, Gladys Perez, Jake Hudspeth, Jan Aspelund, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Perez, Jessica Vasquez, Jonathan Serna, Jose Serna, Juan Balderas, Juliana Medrano, Julie Barrera, Julio Medina, Kathy Casares, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Lorissa M Cortez, Luis Vasquez, Maggie Blasco, Margaret Gonzalez, Maria Elena Hernandez, Maria Julia Pena, Mariana Mendiola, Martha Medina, Marycarmen Salinas, Mary Trevino, Mel, Melinda Ayala-Diaz, Melinda G. Elizondo, Melisa Rangel, Merari Teran, Michelle Begwin, Michelle Espinoza, Rocio Garcia, Rosa Luna, Rosario Benavides, Sean Maddan, Vanessa Ramirez, Virginia Lopez

### I. Welcome

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

### II. Review of April meeting minutes

#### Motion to approve April meeting minutes:

- Martha L. Medina 1<sup>st</sup> motion
- Merari Teran 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

### III. Treasurer's report: \$1,646.00

### IV. Speaker/Presentation:

- **Ph.D. in Criminal Justice: Dr. Sean Maddan**
  - The proposal for the Ph.D. program has been in progress for about a decade.
  - The program is a four year structure.
  - Students will be required to take 49 credit hours, about three classes per semester for the first two years.
  - The program follows a hybrid model. The first semester will be FTF.
  - There will be a variety of classes.
  - The first semester will include a pro-seminar course. Focused on establishing professional connections between faculty and students, and discussion about published works by faculty.
  - Theory, Research Methods, and Statistics will also be offered during the first semester.
  - After the first semester, the program will be completely online and synchronous.
  - Other classes will include: Immigration and Crime, Human Trafficking, Mapping, Homeland Security, Cyber Crime, Terrorism, Teaching, etc.

- Students will have the opportunity to teach.
- After coursework, there will be 2-years of intensive research, based on their career path.
- The third year will be focused on their Research Portfolio. The focus will be on students working towards two publishable works or collaborated publications with faculty.
- Dissertation will encompass the student's research. The student's research will be chaired by a faculty committee.
- Students will be funded to attend research conferences.
- Research assistantships, tuition assistance, adjunct teaching will be options for Graduate school funding for admitted students.
- The target will be 10 students per cohort.
- Admissions process will require a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice or related social sciences, GRE, 2 letters of recommendation from University faculty, writing sample (usually Master's Thesis or capstone type paper), personal statement, Résumé or CV.
- Still in the process of awaiting approval from SACS and Apply Texas.
- For more information: Sean Maddan Ph.D., 956-326-2467; [sean.maddan@tamiu.edu](mailto:sean.maddan@tamiu.edu)

- **TAMIU in the Community: Priscilla Martinez**

- Volunteering: Contribution of one's time, effort, or talent to a need, cause, or mission without receiving any financial gain. Being able to contribute some of your time to help people in our communities. As volunteers, we support our communities and add to them in our own unique way by using a wide variety of special skills and experiences we have had.
- Why should we volunteer as TAMIU staff? Every TAMIU staff member is expected to follow the four core values of the University: Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.
- Meeting attendees expressed in the meeting chat about their personal experiences when volunteering and personal benefits that include: connecting with others, building networking skills, learning new skills, making a difference, health benefits, physically active, giving back to the community, etc.
- Volunteering is becoming essential to stand out in a resume. Employers will be looking evidence of that commitment of loyalty and strong desire to contribute to the success of society of which volunteering demonstrates.
- TAMIU in the Community: A HealthyU employee wellness program initiative that encourages faculty and staff to engage in volunteer service to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- How to apply: Create a profile through Trailblazers.
- Service hours can be logged in the *TAMIU in the Community* page.
- Making a donation to Dusty's Food pantry and receive a maximum of 10 service hours.
- Opportunities to volunteer are also posted via Trailblazers webpage. Some annual events include the Big Event (hosted every Spring semester) and Make a Difference (hosted every Fall semester).
- The President's Volunteer Service Award: TAMIU is a certified organization for the Corporation of National and Community Service and may award one of the highest honors from the President of the United States to people who have achieved a certain number of service hours.
  - Next application for PVSA coming up in November 2021.
  - Medals are paid through HealthyU.

- National and International volunteer service can also be added onto the database.
- <https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/cefs.shtml>
- For more information: Priscilla Martinez, 956-326-2286, [priscillaa.martinez@tamtu.edu](mailto:priscillaa.martinez@tamtu.edu)

## V. Staff Senate News

- **Raising Cane's Update**
  - Staff Senate organization received a \$100.00 donation from Raising Cane's.
  - The fundraiser raised \$125.00
- **Jeans day for TAMTU TED event**
  - Minimum of \$5.00 to wear jeans and TAMTU spirited items during TED.
  - Link will be sent May 12, 2021.
  - Departments with 100% participation will be included in a drawing for free lunch, courtesy of TAMTU food services.
- **Tuition Waiver & Educational Release Time Reminder**
  - If you are pursuing a Master's degree, you are eligible for a tuition waiver.
  - You are also eligible for Educational Release Time during work hours.
  - Forms are available under HR website.
- **Inbox question: For anyone who is concerned about summer child care. For people with young children what will the University allow in terms of child care issues?**
  - **University President Response:** "I encourage all TAMTU employees with children to consult with their supervisor to explore flexible work hours and accrued leave time this summer that can be scheduled as needed. In addition, while we will not be offering camps on campus this summer, both the local school districts are offering expanded summer enrichment programs that can provide support. Please explore all options available to you and examine any alternatives that you may not have previously considered."
- **COVID-19 Testing Update** – Signed two agreements with Curative for testing kiosks on campus available M-F located between Pellegrino and Canseco. Testing available to TAMTU and Laredo Communities.
  - Testing available 9:00am-5:00pm, M-F, by appointment or walk-in.
  - PCR test with results available within 24-48 hours.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination** - Agreement with Curative.
  - For those interested, COVID-19 vaccine will be available during a pop-up clinic from 12:00-3:00pm on May 12, 2021. Both doses of Moderna vaccine will be available. This event is also open to the community. Located at the Student Center rotunda. For the second dose, you can register on site. For the first dose, schedule your appointment online.
  - Vaccine and Testing appointments are available at the following link: <https://www.tamtu.edu/health/covid-19-reporting.shtml>
  - Picture ID is required. For the second dose, also bring your vaccination card. Must be 18 or older to receive the Moderna vaccine.

## VI. TAMTU News

- **Commencement Reminder/Update**
  - Friday, May 14-Saturday, May 15 commencement exercises.
- **Outstanding Employee Service Awards**
  - Wednesday, May 12 = award nomination deadline.
    - Two awards: Staff and Administrator

- **TED Reminder (May 21)**
  - Taking place Friday, May 21, 2021 from 9:00am-4:00pm
  - Service awards will be presented for 2020 and 2021.
  - Registration for TED closed on Friday, April 30, 2021. Those who did not register will be ineligible for breakfast, lunch, or snack and ineligible to participate in door prize raffles.
  - Virtual presentations throughout the day and guest speaker is Charles Marshall.
  - Meal vouchers will be sent next week and will be delivered to offices. Tickets are required to be presented to pick up meals and snack.
  - To adhere with social distancing guidelines, employees in certain buildings will report to specific designated areas for meals.
  - Employees who did not register for TED will have access to the virtual event but ineligible for meals and door prizes.
- **Memorial Day Holiday (May 31, 2021)**
  - Campus closed

## VII. Open floor

- **Continuing Education - Lisa Guzman**
  - ASL class scheduled for June 1- July 1 from 6-7 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.
  - ASL course fee: \$250
  - For more information: [ce@tamiu.edu](mailto:ce@tamiu.edu)
  - CPR class = 1 space available and taking place on Saturday, May 15, 2021.
  - For more information, contact Adriana Rodriguez at 326-2829.
- **International Engagement - Diana Carolina Valdez**
  - International students are allowed to work on campus.
  - International students are allowed to work 19 hours per week and enrolled full-time.
  - Employment has to be related to student services only.
  - <https://www.tamiu.edu/international/oncampusemp.shtml>
  - Collaborated with Career Services on workshops for students to learn about interview process and other services.
  - Employment process is different for an International student compared to a U.S. Citizen. They work closely with HR. They are allowed to work and please consider them under your applicants.
  - For more information, stop by STC 124.
- **VITA Tax Prep**
  - TAMIU site extended to May 13, 2021.
  - [www.vitalaredo.org](http://www.vitalaredo.org)
- **Career Services - Michelle Begwin**
  - Reminder about 2021 Virtual School Districts Fair taking place tomorrow from 1:00-4:00pm.
  - There are over 20 employers and over 60 students and alumni registered.
  - Handshake at [go.tamiu.edu/handshake](http://go.tamiu.edu/handshake)

### **VIII: Door Prizes**

1. Andrea L. Pawelek
2. Amy Sandoval
3. Melinda Ayala-Diaz
4. Blanca E. Ramos
5. Armandina Ramos

### **IX: Adjournment**

#### **Motion to adjourn:**

- Cihlalli Perez 1<sup>st</sup> motion
- Erika Noyola 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
- Time: 3:08pm