

TAMIU STAFF SENATE

Meeting Agenda Tuesday, September 8, 2020 2:00pm | Webex

Attendance:

Irma Cantu, Alicia Segovia, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Anabelly Sanchez, Annie Gutierrez, Armandina Ramos, Athena Cortez, Caro Valdez, Cindy Villarreal, Claudia Ortiz, Cynthia Martinez, Daniela Maldonado, Erika Medrano, Gladys Perez, Jackelyne Briseño, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Kathy Casarez, Lorissa Cortez, Lorna Espinoza, Lisa Salazar, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Marcela Uribe, Margaret Gonzalez, Maria Blasco, Maria Flores Westerman, Maria Leticia Cruz, Mariana Mendiola, Merari Terán, Mika Akikuni, Mindy Downie, Martha Medina, Rosalinda Ochoa, Pablo Reyes Sarinana, Priscilla Martinez, Rebecca Delgado, Richelle Garcia, Roberto Torres Saenz, Adriana Rodriguez, Rosa Luna, Rosabel Ramos, Sandra Villanueva, Vanessa Almaraz, Vanessa Martinez, Vanessa Ramirez, Yelitza Howard, Zoila Franco Hinojosa

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

I. **Welcome:** Ana Vargas called Staff Senate meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

II. **Review of August Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve: Maria Leticia Cruz (1st) and Vanessa Martinez (2nd)

III. **Treasurer's Report:**

- Staff Senate Budget = \$3,133.70
- Book Scholarship = \$2449.90

IV. **Speaker/Presentation**

a) **Dr. Irma Cantú – “The Cry of Independence”**

- Presented on the History and Heritage of Mexican Independence Day. Touched on the two-day celebration and its history, as well as the Battle of the Virgenes. Showed video highlighting the previous celebration held by the Mexican president and how it changed from previous celebrations.

V. **Staff Senate News**

a) **Voting on revised Staff Senate Bylaws**

- Action item- Ballot voting link provided; ballot open for 1-2 min. for staff to Approve or Not Approve proposed changes of bylaws presented during August Meeting
 - Voting Results: 95.5% approve and 4.5% not approve.
 - Motion passed. Changes take effect for the upcoming 2021-2022 Staff Senate Board.

b) **Staff Senate Book Scholarship**

- Book scholarship aims to assist people to meet their educational goals. Application available through Staff Senate. Opens on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 and closes on Tuesday, September 22 at 11:59pm.

VI. TAMIU News

- **VPIA – 50th Anniversary alumni virtual events**
 - Richelle Garcia – Preparing for Alumni at Home virtual bash; coming up September 19, 2020.
 - Full-day reunion for the UNIV accessible from home with Fun and Instructional Classes; TAMIU Talks; Awards; Prizes, and Contests.
 - Registration for event is open at \$30 at go.tamiau.edu/alumniathome.
 - Contact Information: 956-326-2176 or email Richelle or Jacky.
- **Diversity and Equity Committee – Upcoming Heritage and Awareness Events**
 - Mika Akikuni – Renewed TAMIU Inclusion Diversity and Equity Committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff members, which promotes equality and inclusion for everyone. All are invited to participate in committee. In the process of organizing events for Hispanic heritage month.
 - Kicks off on September 15th with 15 events scheduled, partnering with SOLE and International Engagement. Events include, Student led –El Grito, Latino Masculinity discussion, Loteria, Conscious coffee hour, Reading and discussion of Mexican folk tales featuring 500 years of La Llorona, Decolonizing Diversity on the Epistemic Value of Higher Education, PBS livestream Día de Los Muertos discussion, and Virtual altar display.
 - New diversity website – www.tamiau.edu/diversity. Features research by diverse committee members, recipes, world music, cultural recommendations, and books. As well as a Diversity Spotlight- Featuring a different faculty member or alumni for Hispanic heritage month.
- **Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services – Mental Health Awareness Week 2020**
 - Taking place from Monday, October 5th – Thursday, October 8th.
 - Series of events; Monday virtual Community Agency Wellness fair; live Q and A on how to access various services in the Laredo community. Tuesday – Thursday will feature guest speakers including alumni, TAMIU faculty, TAMIU staff, and Laredo community. Rock trail for suicide awareness all week throughout the month; paint a rock with a message of kindness and support. Art contest for students. Various door prizes throughout the week.
 - More information will be sent via email, posted on social media pages, and via TAMIU counseling webpage.

VI. Open floor

A. Sandra Villanueva (Office of Compliance):

- Fall 2020 It's On Us Week, we will be collaborating with SOLE to host Safe Zone Training (via WebEx) for all employees. Please make plans to attend this important training about LGBTQ+ awareness and issues. Register at the Safe Zone Registration Link:
<https://tamiau.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6395290>

B. Martha Medina:

- TAMIU is hosting the virtual 2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's benefit Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020.
- Participants will walk on their own to help raise critical awareness in the community. If you're interested in joining Team TAMIU in this worthy endeavor, here's the team's link.
https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2020/TXSanAntonioandSouthTexas?team_id=614047&pg=team&fr_id=13876

C. Kathy Casares:

- Nomination forms for the Outstanding Employee Service Award has been extended through the end of September. Information can be found on UConnect.

D. Kristina Valenciano:

- Flu shot event taking place on Friday, September 11, 2020 from 11:00am-1:00pm at the Student Center Ballroom; face coverings will be distributed at event for all staff.
 - MyEvide Two-Step process has been updated. Flu shot is option for some of us as part of the list that qualifies for one of your two-step process opportunities.
- Meditation Monday events will resume; be on the look-out for more info, and pilates continues for the next two weeks with the rec.

E. Ana Vargas:

- COVID 19 testing - Available every Wednesday and Thursday. 130 appointments per testing day available. Testing on a first-come, first-serve basis for faculty, staff and students.
- Office of Public Relations has established a webpage for TAMIU virtual backgrounds, which are available for TAMIU community when hosting a virtual event.

VII. Door prizes

- Annie Gutierrez, Alicia Segovia, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Gladys Perez

VIII. Adjournment: Mindy Downie and Martha Laura Medina at 3:10pm