

# TAMU STAFF SENATE

## Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:00pm | Webex

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

**Attendees:** Jonathan Serna, Mary Carmen Salinas, Leonela Preciado, Laura Bogue, Mary Treviño, Abigail Fernandez, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Anabelly Sanchez, Anna Garza, Athena Cortez, Fabian Castillo, Cindy Villarreal, Cecilia Vazquez, Cynthia Martinez, Cindy Villarreal, Daniela Maldonado, Diana Valdez, Gladys Perez, Guillermo F. Gonzalez, Hilda Dennis, Jake Hudspeth, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Chandarlis, Jessica Tamez, Juana Villagran, Karla Leal, Kathy Casares, Laura Bogue, Margaret Gonzalez, Lisa Salazar, Lorissa Cortez, Lorna Espinoza, Mindy Downie, Becky Litman, Connie Guzman, Maria Arce, Maria Blasco, Maria Flores-Westerman, Maria D. De La Garza, Mariana Mendiola, Merari Teran, Michelle Espinoza, Martha Medina, Norma Rodriguez, Rosalinda Ochoa, Pedro Gallegos, Roberto Torres Saenz, Rocio Garcia, Adriana Rodriguez, Rosa Luna, Marycarmen Salinas, Raquel Urrutia, Rosanne Palacios, Vanessa Almaraz, Vanessa Ramirez, Veronica Juarez, Virginia Lopez

### I. Welcome

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

### II. Review of September meeting minutes

#### Motion to approve August meeting minutes:

- Margaret Gonzalez 1st motion
- Lorissa Cortez 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

### III. Treasurer's report:

- Staff Senate Budget = \$3113.70

### IV. Speaker/Presentation

#### a) Jonathan Serna, MA, LPC – Sleep paralysis

- The speaker presented on the physiological and psychological experience of sleep paralysis and recovering from an episode. The speaker also provided psycho. education on sleep cycles and risk factors for sleep paralysis. The speaker also presented on tips for sleep improvement.

### V. Staff Senate News

#### a) Book scholarship recipients:

- Nancy Ramos Student Counseling and Disability Services
- Julio Tovar Office of Information Technology
- Michelle Espinoza Business Office
- Pedro Gallegos Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade
- Jessica Chandarlis Office of International Engagement

**b) Staff Senate Highlights Newsletter**

- The newsletter will be sent twice a month on Wednesdays to keep up-to-date on the current news around campus.
- Content is reviewed and the newsletter will be sent every Wednesday after Tuesday's Staff Senate meeting and every last Wednesday of the month.
- TAMIU community can email Staff Senate on content to be shared in the newsletter.

**c) COVID-19 Testing – Marycarmen Salinas**

- Ongoing on campus and the TAMIU community is highly encouraged to sign-up.
- Easy to sign up to schedule an appointment.

**Q and A Briefing:**

**1Q: What type of test is it and how would it be administered?**

- Curative lab testing based out of California that is also being utilized by A&M system institutions.
- Whenever a test is done here, it is sent overnight to California.
- It is a PCR test that is non-invasive and not nasal, but a self-collected oral test.
- Observers are present to guide on how to collect specimen.
- It is a guided, step-by-step process and user-friendly.
- Test kits are deposited at end of testing site with turnaround results within 48-72 hours.
- Register with your TAMIU email and results are provided to the registered email.

**Q: What if we have a new employee and they cannot register for test? What would they have to do?**

- Call Student Health Services at 326-2866 to be guided on how to get registered.
- UIN numbers may not be registered immediately for new hires in the Curative system.

**Q: Is the oral test as accurate as nasal test?**

- The data is by Curative, and, at this time, we do not have exact number to compare with nasal accuracy due to the tests being oral only.
- Some research has shown nasal to be more accurate than oral; however, the accuracy test provided by Curative for oral testing is 90%.

**Q: Can we get tested more than once?**

- Yes, and highly encouraged to test as often as possible.
- The test is a snapshot of a person's sample on the specific testing date, but does not represent exposure or infection after the test day.

**Q: What is the procedure the day of test administration?**

- 20-minutes before appointment do not drink, eat, or brush teeth because it will tamper with the swab sample that could result in a non-testable or invalid test.
- Presenting an ID is required the day of the appointment. Acceptable forms of ID include: passport, TAMIU ID, and state ID.
- The ID will verify who the person is that is being checked-in, along with confirming your registration confirmation code.

- Everyone who registers must make sure to receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation, then your registration did not go through, at which point you may need to reregister or contact Student Health Services, if needed.

**Q: Is a person able to register and test on the same day?**

- Yes, same day registration and testing is available when testing availability is shown on the schedule.

**Q: What are the days for testing?**

- Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30am-11:30am.
- Monday mornings are reserved for athletes to be eligible to participate in their sport.

**Q: Will you be having testing times available in the late afternoons or evening as well?**

- Evening testing every other Monday evening from 4:00-6:00pm
- Next evening date is scheduled for Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: What is the process if an employee does test positive?**

- Student Health Services only oversees students who test positive.
- Employees who test positive are required to immediately contact Jan from Human Resources who will provide specific instructions on what to do next.

**VI. TAMIU News**

**a) It's On Us Week – Lorissa Cortez**

- This event is aimed to raise awareness on sexual assault on college campuses nationwide.
- A series of week-long events that include the following:
  - Monday-Virtual Pledge
  - Tuesday-Coloring for a cause
  - Wednesday-Safe Zone for employees from 2:00-5:00pm via Webex
  - Thursday-Virtual Green Dot overview from 2:00-3:30pm  
-Wear purple Thursday in October
  - Follow on social media at #ITSONUSDUSTDEVILS
  - Contact Lorissa Cortez for more information at [lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu](mailto:lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu)
  - <https://www.tamiu.edu/compliance/documents/virtual-its-on-us-week-flyer--fall-2020.pdf>

**b) IBC Keynote Speaker Series – Amy Palacios**

- First speaker series for the year will be held virtually via Webex.
- Taking place Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 3:00pm.
- Diversity, Changing Demographics in the 2020 Election.

**c) SECC Campaign - Mary Treviño**

- This is a state wide campaign for all state agencies.
- This campaign supports charities of your choice under our local United Way along with national agencies.
- Campaign is ongoing from September 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Currently, the campaign has raised \$35,275 in pledges from employees. However, last year was over \$53,000.

- Thus far, we are at 177 participants in comparison to 295 participants from last year, and there is still time to participate.
- Pledge can also be submitted through an online pledge under the Single Sign On menu under SECC enrollment.
- Upon enrolling for the online pledge, you can designate a charity and indicate 1-time, 9-month, or 12-month contribution.
- Goal is to show support for charities.
- Presently, local agencies are experiencing great demand and need support.
- For more information contact Mary Trevino at [maryt.trevino@tamiu.edu](mailto:maryt.trevino@tamiu.edu); 956-326-3161

**d) Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign – Rosanne Palacios**

- Last year reached 60% of giving from colleagues and this year we are at 43%.
- This year, the goal is to meet 60%, even if the amount of contribution is less than last year.
- This campaign focuses on the number of participants, not necessarily the amount of the contribution.
- Donation can be given to a program, scholarship fund, etc.
- Incentive: Whatever department gets a greater participation than last year will be given \$2,500 dollars that can be given to a program or scholarship fund of their choice.

**VII. Open floor**

- Congratulations to Juan G. Perez from Recreational Sports for being honored with the 2020 Outstanding Employee Service Award.
- Leonela Preciado – Help promote a survey for students that have visited support services that includes ULC, WC, and Advising and Mentoring.
  - The survey link will close Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ucssupportservices>
- COED – Thank you to everyone who liked and shared posts for World Teacher Day celebration.
- Q: Is the book scholarship yearly or per semester?
  - Staff Senate President Response: The book scholarship is per semester and will be re-opening in the spring.
- Michelle Begwin – Career Services will be hosting the 2020 All Majors Career Fair for students and alumni.
  - For more information or to register for the event, contact Office of Career Services at 956-326-4470.
  - Coffee House Wednesday is coming up with guest speaker Dr. Linda Mitchell.
- Amy Palacios – Book: Diversity Explosion: How the New Racial Demographics are Remaking America
  - The book is available for sale at the TAMIU bookstore.
- Holiday Gala – For the safety of our TAMIU community, there will not be a gala this year, but there will be a type of holiday celebration.
  - A survey email will be sent in the upcoming weeks to request input for holiday celebration ideas.
- Random COVID-19 testing
  - Email regarding COVID-19 random testing will be sent.
  - Selected participants are not obligated to test, but it is encouraged and recommended.

- When registering and scheduling an appointment, select the random option.
- Student organizations can be on campus and have face-to-face meetings with a limit of 10-15 students and are required to test prior to meeting in person.
- Early voting on campus
  - TAMIU mobile branch from October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at the WHTC lobby
  - Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am-8:00pm
  - Friday from 9:00am-12:00pm
- Spring registration
  - Opens Monday, November 2, 2020
  - <http://www.tamtu.edu/registrar/registration.shtml>
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual TAMIU Athletics Voz de Niño's Toy Drive
  - Five dollar contribution
  - For any TAMIU office that donates toys or checks valued at a \$5.00 contribution per full-time employee, will be entered in a drawing to win a Christmas luncheon for 10-people provided by Aramark.
  - For more information, contact Dan Lathey at 956-326-2892 or [dlathey@tamtu.edu](mailto:dlathey@tamtu.edu)

### **VIII. Door prizes**

1. Amy Palacios
2. Anna Garza
3. Margaret Gonzalez
4. Rosalinda Ochoa
5. Karla Leal (Grand Prize Winner)

### **IX. Adjournment**

- **Motion to adjourn**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion by Mindy Downie from COED
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Rosalinda Ochoa from OIT
  - Time: 3:12pm