

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

## Meeting Agenda Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:00pm | Webex

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

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Terrazas, Daniel Lathey, Leonela Preciado, Albert Chavez Jr., Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Amy Palacios, Amy Rodriguez, Ana Gonzalez, Ann Gutierrez, Anna Garza, Araceli Sandoval, Athena Cortez, Brittany Cedillo, Carmen De La Garza, Cindy Villarreal, Claudia Martinez, Consuelo Guzman, Cynthia Martinez, Daniela Maldonado, Erika Cantu, Fabian Castillo, Gladys Perez, Hilda Dennis, Jake Hudspeth, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Tamez, Jesus Ruiz, Jonathan Serna, Juana Villagran, Juliana Medrano, Karla Leal, Kathy Casares, Laura Bogue, Laura Echandly, Lorissa Cortez, Margaret Gonzalez, Maria Blasco, Mariana Mendiola, Juan M. Martinez Jr., Mary Treviño, Melissa Dominguez, Merari Teran, Karla Leal, Michelle Begwin, Michelle Espinoza, Martha Medina, Nicholas Hudson, Rosalinda Ochoa, Rebecca Delgado, Roberto Torres Saenz, Adriana H. Rodriguez, Rosabel Ramos, Rocio Garcia, Sandra Villanueva, Vanessa Almaraz, Vanessa Ramirez

### I. Welcome

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

### II. Review of October meeting minutes

#### Motion to approve October meeting minutes:

- Rosalinda Ochoa 1<sup>st</sup> motion
- Cihlalli Perez 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

### III. Treasurer's report:

- Staff Senate Budget = \$3113.70

### IV. Speaker/Presentation

- **Dr. Elizabeth Terrazas-Castillo**
  - The speaker presented on changes and emotional impact of the pandemic during the 2020 holiday season. The speaker defined and normalized the experience of “pandemic fatigue”. The speaker provided alternate options to celebrate the holidays with friends and family. The speaker shared coping strategies during the holiday season.

### V. Staff Senate News

- **2020 Holiday Celebration**
  - The event will be taking place over three days from Wednesday, December 2nd thru Friday, December 4th.
  - Activities will include:
    - Holiday decorating and photo contests.
    - 12/2: Kick off festivities with food pantry donation drive and give donors free hot chocolate.
    - 12/2: A virtual loteria, taking place after hours approx. at 6:30pm.
    - 12/3: Free coffee or tea with Starbucks vouchers for everyone who signs up.
    - 12/3: Virtual painting class with provided art supplies.
    - 12/4: Wrap up with holiday lunch-to-go from the TAMIU diner provided by Aramark.

- Door prizes throughout the week.
- RSVP to your preferred activities or events for a chance to win door prizes.
- In adherence with safety measures, certain events may require reserved time slots to limit attendees at a given time and maintain social distancing. Face coverings required.
- Be on the look out to RSVP for events in the coming week.

## VI. TAMIU News

### ● Denise Luna - Diversability Events

- Two day virtual events taking place from Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The mission is to increase public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and promoting independence through support groups.
- Monday, November 16 = Texas Workforce Vocational Rehabilitation Services will present on services and how they can be of support to students in higher education.
- Tuesday, November 17 = Disability rights of Texas featuring Angelica Sander, JD. This organization's mission is to help individuals with disabilities to understand and exercise their legal rights. This organization provides legal advice to students regarding higher education.
- The events are open to all TAMIU students.
- Prizes for first 20 students who register for events. Along with other door prizes for event attendees.
- For more information call 326-2230; or Denise at X3086; [denise.luna@tamiu.edu](mailto:denise.luna@tamiu.edu); STC 136

### ● Amy Palacios - IBC Keynote Speaker Series

- "The Coming COVID Baby Bust & Other Challenges for Families".
- Taking place Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.
- If students are attending for class credit, they may submit the following information:
  - Professor name
  - Course name and number
  - [cswt@tamiu.edu](mailto:cswt@tamiu.edu)
- If any faculty are encouraging students to attend, an individualized attendee list can be created.
- This event is free and open to the public.
- Registration is online at <https://go.tamiu.edu/kearney>

### ● Voz de Niños Toy Drive

- This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year TAMIU Athletics hosts a toy drive and the 5<sup>th</sup> year the drive benefits Voz de Niños.
- Toy drive benefits children who are experiencing court appointed foster care.
- Children 12 years and older receive a \$50.00 Walmart gift card, and children 11 years and younger receives a toy.
- The deadline to receive donations is next Thursday.
- Donations are welcome also because what is not spent on cash this year can be carried over to next year.
- Week from Saturday athletes will be wrapping toys.
- Offices that participate will be added to a drawing, and the winner will receive 10 holiday dinners courtesy of Aramark.
- For more information contact Daniel Lathey at 956-326-2890 or via email at [dlathey@tamiu.edu](mailto:dlathey@tamiu.edu)

- **Online Final Exams**

- Online final exams will commence after thanksgiving holiday, from November 26-28 as there will no longer students on campus.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> is Reading Day.
- Final exams taking place from December 1-7 and all final exams are scheduled to be online.
- Not expecting students or faculty on campus during that time.
- There will be a virtual commencement ceremony and more information can be found at <https://www.tamtu.edu/commencement/>

## VII. Open floor

- **Martha Medina** – Now welcoming VITA volunteers for the 2021 tax season
  - Volunteer opportunity for VITA 2021 tax season.
  - Sign-up for training. <http://vitalaredo.org/volunteer>
- **Kristina Valenciano** – Wellness will be hosting a longer version of today's guest speaker discussion
  - Taking Care During the Holidays One Day at a Time
  - Webinar taking place on Thursday, November 19; webinar
  - A link will be shared with everyone via email
  - Encourage to invite coworkers to join-in on session
  - Meditation Monday sessions are ongoing and for the remainder of the month
  - 15-minute meditation sessions led by MACP students

## VIII. Door Prizes

1. Gladys Perez
2. Carmen De La Garza
3. Claudia Martinez
4. Hilda Dennis

## IX. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion by Rosalinda Ochoa
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Mindy Downie
  - Time: 3:01pm