

# TAMIU STAFF SENATE

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

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

**Attendees:** Stephanie Hernandez, Denise Luna, Alejandra Eligio Alejandro, Alice Arce, Amelia Rodriguez, Amy Rodriguez, Ana Gonzalez, Ana Salazar, Amy Palacios, Anabelly Sanchez, Andrea Beattie, Anna, Anna Garza, Araceli Sandoval, Armandina Ramos, Brittany Cedillo, Carla Luna, Carmen, Fabian Castillo, Claudia Beltran, Claudia Ortiz, Cynthia Martinez, Diana Blackwell, Edelmiro Santos, Eliza Guzman, EM, Enrique Botello, Erika Cantu, Erika Medrano, Georgina Zamudio, Gladys Perez, Guillermo F. Gonzalez, Hilda Dennis, Heather Benavides, Jake Hudspeth, Jennifer Torres, Jessica Acosta Lopez, Jessica Chandaris, Jessica Tamez, Jessica Vasquez, Jonathan Serna, Julie Barrera, Karla Lozano, Kathy Casarez, Laura Bogue, Laura Echandy, Laura Elizondo, Leonela Preciado, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Lorissa Cortez, Lorna Espinoza, Maria Blasco, Mariana Barberena Asiain, Mariana Mendiola, Mary Treviño, Melissa Dominguez, Merari Teran, Michelle Flores, Mirasol Tabarez, Martha Medina, Ofelia Maldonado, Patricia Lopez, Priscilla, Rebecca Delgado, Rene Prado, Roberto Torres Saenz, Rocio Garcia, Adriana Rodriguez, Rosa Luna, Rosalinda Ochoa, Mariana Salazar, Sandra Villanueva, Scheiby Fisher, S. Guzman, Stephanie N. Hernandez, Diana Valdez, Valentina Flores, Vanessa Martinez, Vanessa Ramirez, Virginia Lopez

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

**II. Review of November meeting minutes**

**Motion to approve:** 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Martha Laura Medina

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Lorissa Cortez

**III. Treasurer's report:** \$3,638.00

**IV. Speaker/Presentation**

• **Dr. Pablo Arenaz – Updates from the President**

- The President congratulated Staff Senate on the success of the holiday events. The President made the following announcements preceded by a brief Q and A session:
  - Next Friday, December 18, 2020 will be the last day for the winter break.
  - There will be no 2021 spring break, and the two days off were added to winter break.
  - Safety: Number of positive cases of COVID-19 on the rise, and encourage employees to be safe during the winter break.
  - There will be gradual staggering of University employees returning to work on campus after the holiday break, January 4, 2021.
  - Deans, Directors, OIT personnel, library personnel, and some faculty will be returning on January 4th with negative rapid test result. Curative test available as well and with results 48-hours later.
  - Employees will be phased throughout the week with negative test result. Testing available throughout the month of January.
  - Staff asked to test January 5-7. With a negative result staff may return to work on campus. Remote working required while awaiting test result.
  - Third wave of people will be the second week of January.
  - First day of Wintermester is January 4, 2021
  - COVID-19 testing is mandatory for all faculty and staff.

- Each Vice-President has been tasked with working out the different phases for their Divisions and should be contacting their Directors to update staff as to when to return possibly by the end of the week or early next week.
- University community will be updated by next Monday, outlining staggered plan and expectations.
- System wide TrainTraq recertification on COVID-19 procedures and safety precautions.
- Virtual commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 12, 2020.
- Planning to have a commencement ceremony in May 2021.
- TAMIU has been designated as a COVID-19 vaccine site. Vaccines will be administered on campus possibly beginning January or February of 2021.
  - TAMIU as a vaccination site will be open to and accommodated for the general and TAMIU communities.
  - Arrival of vaccines is currently unknown.

#### Q and A with the President

- **Q: Clarifying if you travel internationally, what type of vacation or leave time should be used to quarantine.**
  - **A:** HR response: Use either vacation, FLSA, comp time, state comp time, or unpaid leave for the safety of UNIV community.
  - **A:** if you travel internationally, you will be required to quarantine 14 days. You can use annual leave, sick, or comp time. If you do not have any of those, then you would have to take leave without pay.
  - **A:** Different types of care leave such as FMLA expire December 31, 2020. New Bill remains unknown.
- **Q: Is there an order as to who gets vaccinated first throughout our campus? Is it just a first come first serve basis?**
  - **A:** We will follow CDC guidelines = Nurses, student nurses, first responders, law enforcement, and then go with people who are at risk, etc. Based on the guidelines.
  - Not first come first serve. Required to follow CDC or state guidelines.
- **Q: Is the vaccine going to be made required for us as well?**
  - **A:** Meeting coming up with other presidents and uncertain of what the System is going to suggest or recommend. Right now no, the vaccine is not required, not required of any citizen.
- **Q: Will there be any mandatory testing for students to come back to campus after the holidays?**
  - **A:** Still discussing, possibly student employees and students who live on campus.
- **Q: Would you be able to go over the process of coming back for example would the first group get test and go home for 48 hours to make sure they are negative?**
  - **A:** Yes, you work from home until you get a negative test. Then you will be expected to come in. You can also test with the city or a private physician. Test has to be done by no earlier than the 5<sup>th</sup> of January or later due to incubation time.
- **Q: Do we know if it will be the Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine given on campus?**
  - **A:** No. It will be whatever is provided.
  - **A:** Pfizer requires an ultra-cold freezer. We have two ultra-cold freezers on campus if needed.
  - **A:** Moderna requires a regular freezer.
- **Q: What type of test is being offered on campus on Jan 5th? Nasal or mouth swab?**
  - **A:** Same Curative test, the mucocul mouth swab.

- **A:** Working with the system of possibility of getting rapid tests which is the same as the ones used in the school districts.
  - **A:** Also have another antigen test used by Athletics, and people returning on January 4<sup>th</sup> will be administered this test.
- **Q: Can we have a little bit of clarification on returning to work? Do we physically report to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> or physically report to work on the 5<sup>th</sup>?**
  - **A:** Physically on campus: group of people who will come in on the 4<sup>th</sup> and will be tested, those who are negative will stay; they will be notified mostly admin, OIT, Library because of Wintermester starting on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - **A:** Group of people test on 5-7= second of phase 1 or phase 2, and they will test on that day, expected to work from home while waiting for results
  - **A:** Third group who test on Jan 11. Will work the first week form home, and once they receive their negative test on the second week will return to work physically then.
  - **A:** All details will be sent in an email by your VP or supervisor by Friday or early next week.
- **Q: Can you also let us know about childcare issues for the spring? If remote learning is continuing with the school districts, will remote work location be extended for those who are currently working from home?**
  - **A:** The answer right now is No, because the school districts are offering face-to-face, but we look at it on a case by case basis.
- **Q: When will the TAMIU campus be open to students?**
  - **A:** Jan 25<sup>th</sup> first day of classes, students may be on campus before that to meet with advisors.
- **Q: Do students start on the 19<sup>th</sup>?**
  - **A:** International Learning Institute may start earlier. This is a special program.
  - **A:** For the general student population first day of classes is January 25<sup>th</sup>?
- **Q: Will students be doing face-to-face classes next semester?**
  - **A:** It will be the same as it is this semester. Most classes will be in a flex format.
  - **A:** They will have the opportunity to either come face-to-face or watch synchronous. There will be no asynchronous portion to the flex classes in the spring.
  - **Ex:** if you have a class at 10:30 in the morning MWF, either you come here and go to class or you watch it on your computer, but that's the only time you will be able to see it.

## V. Staff Senate News

### • COVID-19 testing

- There will be testing next week
- It is posted on the COVID site at [www.tamtu.edu/coronavirus](http://www.tamtu.edu/coronavirus)
- If you are interested in testing, there will be Wednesday testing tomorrow from 9:30-11:00am and one last COVID-19 test date on Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00am.
  - **Claudia Beltran:** Currently no slots available for tomorrow Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Monday is the next opportunity for testing. Scheduling for Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> will be open Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> after 2:00pm.

### • 2020 Holiday Festivities Recap

- Prizes are still in the process of being delivered.
- Survey of experience sent via email. Feedback is welcome and taken into consideration for next year's holiday festivities.

### • Holiday Observance Dates

- Winter break December 21, 2020-January 21, 2021

## VI. TAMIU News

- **Virtual Commencement Ceremony**
  - Live Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 1:00pm.
  - [www.go.tamtu.edu/virtual-graduation](http://www.go.tamtu.edu/virtual-graduation)

## VII. Open floor

- **Memo from Athletics: Recap on Voz De Niños Toy Drive**
  - 2020 most successful in terms of impact for vulnerable youth in court appointed foster care several toys were provided to children 11 years and younger and \$50.00 gift cards provided to children 12 years and older.
  - Division of International Business and Technology Studies at the A.R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business was selected in the drawing for participating offices to receive a catered holiday meal from TAMIU food services.
- **Kristina Valenciano = Healthy U initiative and Rec Sports**
  - Start off the year on the right track with fitness or healthier eating habits, or both
  - Trainer lead program guided by REC student trainers;
  - Opportunity to work out at the REC. if you so choose to, and meet also with a dietician for three sessions. Session before, during fit challenge, and end to track progress.
  - 25 slots are now reserved and filled. Emails will be sent to gather information from the participants.
  - There could possibly another opportunity to sign-up for this program in 2021.
  - Employees are encouraged to keep up to date on Healthy U programs and provide feedback on their experience.
  - Virtual painting sessions will continue in 2021.

## VIII: Door Prizes

- Amy Palacios
- Ofelia Maldonado
- Martha Laura Medina
- Jessica Acosta Lopez
- Alice Arce
- Leonela Preciado
- Ana Vargas

## IX: Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn:** 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Kristina Valenciano

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Margaret Gonzalez

**Time:** 2:44pm