



## **STAFF SENATE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**2:00 p.m. | via MS Teams**

**I. Welcome**

**II. Review of January 2025 Meeting Minutes with corrections**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Eva Sanchez

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Aleen Gutierrez

**III. Treasurer's Report**

Remaining balance: \$6,415.83

**IV. Speaker/Presentation**

- TAMIU Killam Library - Dr. Colleen Harris, Dean (<https://www.tamtu.edu/library/>)
  - Dr. Colleen Harris arrived in May and thanks the library team and everyone else for the warm welcome. The library team has been working hard on the SACSCOC accreditation among other things. The outreach and marketing team have been doing a fantastic job of keeping everyone informed on staying up to date with the NY Times online subscription through the library. Find it online on the KLM library website or on Instagram @KillamLibrary. Set up your subscription if you haven't already.
  - We are building a campus community through events like the craft club. Announcements will be via Instagram. Stay tuned to see what our next one is.
  - We are getting a new research services desk. The research help desk has been relocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library. We also added another open lab on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in order to alleviate the one lost on the first floor and to relocate those who are working on research to bring them closer to the help desk.
  - The library team shuttered the chat option that was on the website. The chat option will now give you a live human 24/7. After hours, a real live librarian from somewhere around the world will assist you.
  - System migration is currently underway. This will help in making everything easier to use. We expect to go live at the start of summer session I.
  - We are clearing space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to make room for more open study tables and to place students closer to the research help desk.
  - There are currently four positions open in hopes of having the library function at full capacity.
  - Please be on the lookout for a campus-wide survey that will be coming out within

the next few weeks. It will serve as our broad environmental scan about library services and collections. We would like as much staff participation as possible. We would like to hear more about personal and individual needs that the library can serve. How can the library help you be more effective either in your position or as a learner.

- Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The library team is very innovative and brainstorms on how we can leverage our resources to help you complete what you need to get done.
- Get to Know Your City Parks (<https://laredoparksandrec.com/laredo-parks/>) - Mr. Tommy Ramirez, Assoc. Director, City of Laredo, Parks and Recreation
  - Maintained 1,678 acres of parks and recreation land.
  - Arturo N. Benavides, Sr. Memorial Park located at 2607 Derby Ave. The newest amenity is the splash pad, the biggest in Laredo. Includes skate park, dog park, playground, and exercise station.
  - Independence Hills Regional Park is located at 1102 N. Merida Dr. Includes swimming pool, concession, amphitheater, basketball court, baseball field, skate park, dog park, sand volleyball court, playgrounds, pond for catch-and-release fishing, trails, and paddle boating,
  - Cigarroa Rec Center located at 2201 Zacatecas St. Amenities include weight room, boxing gym, treadmills, bicycles, exercise equipment, multi-purpose rooms, picnic area outside with barbecue pits, game room with gaming equipment, foosball table, and ping pong table.
- TAMIU's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) - Ms. Cihltalli Perez, Director
  - TAMIU is going through its accreditation process with SACSCOC. Occurs every 10 years with a review every 5 years. A quality enhancement plan is created by every university.
  - Our 1<sup>st</sup> QEP in 2005 was Write on, TAMIU! And our last QEP was in 2015, and was Act on Ideas.
  - In 2022, Search of QEP Topic – Strategic Plan & QEP Discussions; In 2023, QEP Identified – Surveys in Spring, Forums with Faculty & Staff Senates, SGA, three main topics reviewed, Experiential Learning (EL) selected.
  - Experiential Learning was a topic of interest. Students learn while actively engaging in work instead of just listening to instruction.
  - We are submitting the narrative for the QEP to SACS this Friday (February 14<sup>th</sup>), and we have an onsite visit from SACS reviewers at the end of March and the beginning of April. They will tell us if we complied with their standards.
  - Experiential learning is beneficial for students in active engagement, motivation and interest, deepens learning, and skill development.
  - The QEP has 3 outcomes. We will be evaluating practices across campus to make sure they're meeting the best standards; Foster an institutional culture that advances quality EL opportunities for students through collaboration with faculty and staff; Implement EL workshops & Expo to support students engaged in EL.
  - There will be activities that will happen starting Fall of 2025.
  - For more information, visit the website at [go.tamtu.edu/QEP](http://go.tamtu.edu/QEP) or email them at [QEP@tamtu.edu](mailto:QEP@tamtu.edu).
- Volunteer Advisors for Civil Rights Process – Lorissa Cortez - Director, Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance

- Advisors play a role in the Title IX misconduct formal process, which is in the Hearing setting. At the live hearing, the cross-examination questions must be asked by the party's advisor and never by a party personally. Parties without an advisor will be provided with one.
- This role involves working with a party to prepare for the live hearing and conducting questioning of parties at the live hearing. Requires training for advisors.
- Hearings usually last no more than 2 hours.
- People are highly encouraged to volunteer for the advisor role.
- Contact Lori Cortez for more information: Ext. 2857 or [lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu](mailto:lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu).

#### **V. Staff Senate News**

- Valentine's Candy Gram Fundraiser has been extended to Feb. 11, 2025. Will be delivered Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Book Scholarship - Application Open Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Apply today at [go.tamiu.edu/staffscholarship](http://go.tamiu.edu/staffscholarship).
- Staff Recognition – Application Open Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- Suggestion Box: <https://www.tamiu.edu/staffsenate/suggestions.shtml>

#### **VI. TAMIU News**

- TAMIU Healthy U - Healthier Texas Community Challenge
  - Catapult this week on Thursday & Friday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at STC 236.
- SACSCOC Visit On-campus April 1 and 2
- Starbucks Updates - Carlos Rodriguez (Aramark)
  - Refills on campus were \$0.50 because Aramark was not enrolled in the rewards program.
  - Aramark has now enrolled in the rewards program but had to make adjustments to comply. They can no longer give out coffee at \$0.50. Starbucks policy states that customers must purchase coffee at regular price and then pay \$0.50 for a refill only if they remain within the 4 walls of the establishment.
  - When bringing your own cup, you will get a \$0.10 discount.
  - Call Carlos at ext. 3054 for more information.
- Discover TAMIU – March 29th
  - The staff senate will be selling bottled water at \$1 each. We are typically located in the breezeway.

#### **VII. Open Floor**

- Pablo Reyes says that they will be upgrading computers from Microsoft 10 to Microsoft 11. Microsoft will no longer be giving support to Windows 10 starting October of this year. Expect an email from OIT for an upgrade to your computer.
- Ana Vargas – An ADA rule will be put into effect April 24, 2026. We are going through the entire website to make sure it is accessible and complies with that timeline. We also need to look out for broken links and misspellings on the website.
- VITA - <https://www.tamiu.edu/vita/index.shtml>

**VIII. Door Prizes**

- 1<sup>st</sup> winner: Janie L. Hernandez
- 2<sup>nd</sup> winner: Rosa Aguilar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> winner: Cristina Oviedo

**IX. Next Meeting – March 4, 2025**

**X. Adjournment**

- 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Juana Villagran
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Christian Chavez