

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
2:00 p.m. | via MS Teams

I. Welcome

II. Review of September 2024 Meeting Minutes

- 1st motion: Aleen Gutiérrez
- 2nd motion: Juana Villagran
- a. **October 2024 General Staff Senate Meeting – Cancelled**
- b. **October 2024 – Special Staff Senate Meeting**

III. Treasurer's Report

- Profits from Halloween Candy-grams: \$500+
- Current balance: \$11,561.42

IV. Speaker/Presentation

- Mr. Juan J. Castillo, Interim President and Vice President for Finance and Administration
 - Update on construction on campus: The Health Sciences Education Research Center (HSERC) on the south side of AIC is currently being built and progressing quickly. On the west side of campus, construction on the expansion of the Western Hemispheric Trade Center is underway.
 - Entrance 3 will be closed this weekend from Friday November 15, 9 p.m. to Monday, 6 a.m.
 - A rendering of the building will be shown at Convocation tomorrow November 13 at 3 p.m. at Fine and Performing Arts Theater.
- Dr. Luis Pérez-Batres, Dean, A.R. Sánchez, Jr. School of Business
 - Dr. Pérez-Batres is pursuing the creation of a school of business that is a destination for international business. The idea is to be among the top international business schools in the country.
 - Signage at WHTC has been updated to recognize the school as the A.R. Sánchez, Jr. School of Business.
 - A visit from AACSB for accreditation has been scheduled.
 - Four centers of excellence for the school of business are the Center for the Study of Western hemispheric Trade (CSWHT), Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Banking Academy, and TAMIU Small Business Development Center (SBDC).
 - TAMIU's ARSSB ranks #392 in Best Business Programs for 2025. They offer a PhD program in International Business Administration from which 10 students have graduated and have continued to rank among the best scientists in econ and finance in the world.
- Ms. Jessica Palacios, Systems Benefits Administrator, Texas A&M University System
 - TAMUS is committed to providing its employees with a comprehensive benefits package at a competitive cost. Health and wellness programs are also tied into benefits. Visit <https://www.tamus.edu/benefits/> for more information.
 - WebMD ONE – replaced MyEvide. It provides information on health benefits, and you can track your progress on the 2-step program to earn premium reduction.

- 2nd MD program – Provides a second opinion on a diagnosis, surgery, or chronic condition.
- Hinge Health – Musculoskeletal program for chronic muscle or joint pain. You can be connected with a coach or physical therapist. Launched Women’s Pelvic Health product.
- Wondr Health – Digital weight loss program. Education on diet and exercise.
- Teladoc Health for Diabetes (Livongo) – Helps personalize the management of type 1 or 2 diabetes in patients. Education to develop a healthier lifestyle. Provides blood glucose meter, unlimited test strips and lancets for free, 24/7 support, one-on-one coaching. Available at no cost.
- Cylinder (formerly GI Thrive) – Helps in maintaining a healthy gut. Dietician available. At-home gut microbiome kit and analysis provided at no cost.
- Virta Health – Virtual clinic that creates plans to reverse type 2 diabetes. Meter, scale, and testing supplies provided at no cost. Virta Health and Teladoc cannot be used at the same time.
- Ovia Health and Family Planning – Women’s health app. Help navigate cycle and fertility to parenthood and menopause. Personalized guidance and in-app coaching. 3 apps available: Ovia: Fertility, Cycle, Health; Ovia: Pregnancy & Baby Tracker; Ovia: Parenting & Baby Tracker
- WIN Fertiity – Helps navigate journey to parenthood. 24/7 nurse care assistance.
- Learn to Live – Cognitive behavioral health product.
- ID Protection – Free ID protection available through BCBS. Includes credit monitoring, up to \$1 million in identity theft insurance, and identity repair. Available for adults and children. Must be enrolled in medical plan to utilize.
- BluePoints – Must be enrolled in medical plan. Earn points with Well on Target. Redeem points at online portal. Points roll over. Effective January 1st, you will be able to redeem points for gift cards.
- BCBSTX Fitness Program – Flexible options and access to nationwide fitness locations.
- Inside Rx Pets – Prescription savings program for pets needing human medications.
- Work/Life Solutions – Includes counseling services, training, and resources to help employees deal with stressful issues. Free of charge.
- SAVI through TIAA – Tool to help you find best federal repayment and forgiveness programs for student loans.
- Coming soon:
 - Rx Saving Solutions – Helps in navigating prescriptions and find lower prices;
 - Hello Heart – Hypertension management program;
 - Accolade Care – Virtual primary care product.
- Question: Are there any homebuyer classes available with our benefits?
Answer: No. Ms. Palacios recommended partnering with a credit union or other local community resources during financial awareness week/month.
- Question: Is there any benefit where we can talk to an attorney?
Answer: Yes. Through Work/Life solutions, you have a complimentary 30-minute session with an attorney. There is also a free will service through Hartford Life Insurance.

V. Staff Senate News

- Nov. 20, Slice of Thanks, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at KCB Lobby
 - Come by and take a break with dessert.
- Book Scholarship Announcement
 - Recipients:
 1. Christine Rojas
 2. Monica Manrique
 3. Isabel S. de Leon
- Employee Recognitions
 - We have received several nominations for exempt and non-exempt staff that have been reviewed. We will be announcing our winners during the December staff senate meeting.
- Oct. 29, Halloween Candy Bag Fundraiser - Thank You
 - Sold approximately 240 candy grams. Our profit was over \$500. Send recommendations for next year's candy grams.
- Dec. 7, Holiday Gala – RSVP: <https://go.tamtu.edu/holidaygala>
 - If you have not RSVP'd, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you RSVP'd and will not be able to attend, please let us know so that we accommodate someone else.
 - We will be serving a different array of food than past galas.
 - Prizes will be a variety of items and will be ready to be taken home.
- Suggestion Box: <https://www.tamtu.edu/staffsenate/suggestions.shtml>
 - Continue providing suggestions to our suggestion box.

VI. **TAMU News**

- Nov. 4, Registration open for Wintermester and Spring 2025. HR Forms: <https://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/ohr/forms.shtml>
 - Employees taking classes, do not forget to submit your HR forms in a timely manner.
- Nov. 12, November Birthdays Brownies with IA, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at KLM 261
- Nov. 13, Fall into Yoga for Employees/Faculty, 5:30 p.m. at KLM Front Lawn
- Nov. 12-13, Healthy U – Massage Chairs, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at STC Front Entrance
- Nov. 19-20, Giving Day
- Nov. 21, November Birthday Employee Luncheon
- Nov. 21, Tree-lighting Ceremony
- Dec. 12, Commencement Ceremonies

VII. **Open Floor**

- Due to the upcoming holiday, timecards will be due early on Thursday, November 21st.
- Thursday, November 21st, 11:00 a.m. at the fountain, there will be an event called "U Are Dear to Us." Pick up a free small deer toy.
- Annual Celebration of Community Engagement is coming up. The form is open to nominate staff members for the Outstanding Community Engagement Staff Leader Award.
- Healthy U is having a painting event next week on Tuesday, November 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

VIII. **Door Prizes**

1st winner: Juana Villagran

2nd winner: Janessa Berlanga

3rd winner: Alexander Castillo

4th winner: Colleen Harris

IX. **Next Meeting** – December 17, 2024 (3rd Tuesday)

X. **Adjournment**

1st motion: Aleen Gutiérrez

2nd motion: Laura Medina