Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

2:00pm | TEAMS Meeting

I. **Welcome**

II. **Review of the September Meeting Minutes**

- No changes to minutes

III. **Treasurer's Report**

- $11,205.33 as of 10/13/2026

IV. **Speaker/Presentations**

- Andrew P. LaPlant - Chief of Staff
  - Mr. LaPlant gave a shoutout to the Office of Career Services for providing him with a suit coat from the TAMIU Career Closet since he forgot his.
  - As Chief of Staff, Mr. LaPlant's main role is to help Dr. Maynard and help with the priorities of the university. As well as working with the leadership of the university, working with cabinet leaders, coordinating projects, and addressing items that need attention. His role is about communication and coordination.
  - If you haven't met Mr. LaPlant you can stop by the President's Office to introduce yourself and let him know if he can help you with anything.
  - Staff are essential to this university, and we are the people that keep things moving every day. His job is to help in any way possible and to listen to our concerns. He would like to make TAMIU a better place, don't hesitate to reach out to him.

- Javier L. Zambrano, Jr. – Vice-President of Institutional Advancement
  - Mr. Zambrano is glad to be back at TAMIU as he began his higher education career back in 1997 as a recruiter. He enjoyed being a recruiter because you learn everything about the university and at the

time there were only four buildings at TAMIU. He has been in higher education for 30 years which includes the UT system, A&M systems, and the medical school at Texas Tech in El Paso. He has always wanted to be back home.

- His role is to work closely with the President to carry out his priorities. Mr. Zambrano oversees fundraising, Marketing and Communications department and Events Services. Everything that he does is to try to raise recognition and the visibility of the university.
- He is working with Dr. Maynard to continue with the great work that has been done here at TAMIU and how to continue to expand and make Laredo great, including this region. Making TAMIU a school destination, a school of choice due to the programs we offer. They are also looking into ways to expand TAMIU's athletic program.
- One of his main roles is fundraising and how to shift the mindset to think bigger and bolder. He will continue to work with our current donors/partners and will work to find new people to work with.
- Mr. Zambrano reminds everyone that if any office on campus wants to reach out to a certain donor/partner reach out to his office first so that we are not asking the same donors. We don't want our donors to experience donor fatigue. He would like all of us to work together.
- With the new athletic director coming in they see great opportunities there. They want to invest in the fields, to make our watching and supporting our teams a greater experience, especially with the heat in Laredo.
- They are going to relaunch the search for an AVP for Marketing Communications and search for Director of Events.
- His plan is to expand our footprint across South Texas, throughout Texas and even beyond.

V. TAMIU News / Staff Senate News

Staff Senate News

- Congratulations to our three Book Scholarship Winners: Alejandro Garcia, Derrick Crooks, and Virginia Lopez. Emails regarding the scholarships will be sent to all winners soon.

- Staff Senate Employee Recognition Award is currently open for nominations. If you want to nominate someone, use the link that was provided in the chat Staff Recognition Program - Nomination Form (Fall26) – Fill out form. The nomination link will be open for plenty of time to give everyone a chance to submit a nomination. Awards will be given to one hourly employee and one salary employee. The submission link will also be shared through email.

- Staff Senate Community Book Swap – Staff Senate is kindly asking for gently used or new books. You can drop off your book donations at ZSC 115 up until November 6th. Book swap event will take place with our fall appreciation event. More details will be announced soon.

- Halloween Spirit Week – A new event to engage with everyone and to launch our new Staff Senate Instagram Account. Halloween spirit week will begin on Monday, October 26 and an email will be sent out with the details of each day. Share department and office participation photos by tagging Staff Senate.

- Staff Senate will be hosting a Pet Costume Contest. Submissions will be open soon and a winner will be selected on Friday, October 30th. A winner will receive a gift card from Petco or PetSmart. A Microsoft form will be created and sent out for submissions. Voting will be on Staff Senate Instagram page. Pet Contest is not limited to only cats and dogs; any pet is welcome.

- Halloween Fest hosted by SOLE will be on Thursday, October 29th. This event is helping all of TAMIU's student organizations.

- Suggestion Box – If you have any suggestions for Staff Senate, submit through the Staff Senate Box. https://www.tamiu.edu/staffsenate/suggestions.shtml

- Work Anniversaries – Congratulations to all staff members who are celebrating a work anniversary this month of October. Thank you for all that you do for TAMIIU.

- Happy Birthday to all staff members who have October birthdays.

TAMIU News

- Maroon Madness is happening today, October 13th beginning at 6:00pm.

- HealthyU will be hosting Panic and Paint painting event in the Student Center Courtyard tomorrow, Wednesday, October 14th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. A great time to paint, relax and relieve your stress.

- Cihtlalli Perez, Director of QEP
  - Ernie the Owl is the official mascot of QEP
  - QEP is focused on experiential learning experiences for students, and they participate in projects that allow them to do hands-on learning.

- A new project called Pathways to Better Health will have students who are Kinesiology and Communication Science Disorder majors have the opportunity to practice what they have learned in their classes with the community. This event will take place on Wednesday, October 21st and Thursday, October 22nd at 5:00pm in the Clinical Health Science Center room 120. They encourage everyone to attend so that the students have the opportunity to practice what they have learned.
- Students who will be participating in this project will be able to present at the LEARN Expo on November 18th from 3:20pm to 4:00pm in the Student Center Ballroom.
- If you would like to volunteer as a judge to assist in scoring projects, use the QR code or link https://tamiu.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZSIfPSlHpaZKtg that was provided in the chat and fill out the form. They ask if you volunteer as a judge to have the time to judge for the full hour to be able to see several projects being presented.
- TAMIU will be providing fee licenses to Coursera courses for all students, faculty, and staff. Coursera is an online platform that provides micro credentials and certificates or any online courses on many different topics. A full marketing rollout plan will be coming up to provide this information.

- Career Fair for all majors will be happening tomorrow Wednesday, October 14th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

- Make a Difference Day will be on Saturday, October 24th

- TAMIU will have a team at this year's Alzheimer's Walk which will be held on Saturday, November 14th. If you can't join a team, you can still donate. Martha Laura Medina started a team, and staff members have joined over the years representing TAMIU.

- TAMIU Family – Applications are open and available for employees who are interested in or have family members that want to enroll for this upcoming spring semester. Applications are being submitted to Human Resources, to verify eligibility.

VI. Open Floor

- Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has registration open for October and November workshops. No cost to the public. Can visit this link for more information https://go.tamiu.edu/sbdcevents.

- Stay Connected @ TAMIU. If you would like to receive calendar invites for events hosted around TAMIU, please fill out this form and we will add you to our Stay Connected List. Stay Connected @ TAMIU – Fill out form

- Holiday Gala is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. The President's Office and Mr. LaPlant will be coordinating this event. Staff Senate will be assisting with anything they may need. More details to come.

- October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month – The Sheriffs Office and the City of Laredo will be hosting the 6th Annual Women's Self-Defense class on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. To reserve a spot contact adhernandez@webbcountytx.gov.

VII. Door Prices

- Elizabeth Granados
- Alejandra Sauceda
- Hilda Garcia

VIII. Next Meeting – November 10, 2026

IX. Adjournment

1st motion: Laura Elizondo
2nd motion: Bernardo Hernandez