Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

2:00pm | TEAMS Meeting

I. **Welcome**

II. **Dr. Christopher Maynard – President's Address**

- Dr. Maynard thanked everyone for all the efforts that were made for his investiture. All who attended were impressed.
- Fall 2026 is the largest enrollment with 9,200 students but final numbers will be finalized until October. Expanding the footprint and having more targeting marketing and recruitment in areas throughout South Texas and Northern Mexico will help to continue to sustain this type of enrollment growth in the future.
- TAMIU goal is to become a residential campus. TAMIU is currently at 100% capacity in housing on campus and are working on adding more housing. A fundraiser was held to raise money for housing scholarships and was a very successful event. The ultimate goal is to have every student who wants to live on campus to do so regardless of their ability to pay.
- TAMIU was able to get a second bus line to campus and is working with the City of Laredo to add more bus lines.
- TAMIU's goal is to become a R2 Carnegie University Classification as we are currently considered a research university (R1). Being classified at R2 will open up many more opportunities for faculty and students. To be considered an R2 university TAMIU will need to hit the mark on how many doctoral graduates we have. Three new doctoral programs on officially starting within the next three years; An Ed.D. (Doctor of Education), a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy. With all five programs on a total of 20 doctoral students will need to graduate per year.
- Another important item is for TAMIU to become the Employer of Choice, not just in Laredo but in South Texas. Steps are being taken to establish in the budget process a standard merit pool as well as an equity pool that will

happen every year. Many other things are being planned for the next couple of years to make sure TAMIU is an employer of choice.
- TAMIU Family is a scholarship program for all full-time employees, their spouses, and dependents to receive 50% off of tuition and fees for any degree at TAMIU. This will begin for the spring 2027 semester and applications will become available starting October 1st.

III. Review of the August Meeting Minutes

- No changes to minutes

IV. Swearing of New Staff Senate Officers

- VP in Marketing and Communications: Alejandra Eligio Alejandro
- VP in Fundraising: Kathy Casares
- Treasurer: Andria Hernandez
- Secretary: Amy Rodriguez

V. Treasurer's Report

- $11,863.01 as of 09/22/2026

VI. Speaker/Presentations

- Ana M. Vargas, Director of Digital Media
    - New University Portal is coming – UConnect will be changing starting in mid-October before registration begins in November. Both the new and old versions will be running at the same time, but eventually the old UConnect will be retired.
    - An announcement was sent out through Insider to have people help with building the new UConnect via focus groups. If anyone wants to help out with testing out the new UConnect portal or have questions you can contact Ana Vargas (PRMIS), Gilbert Perez (OIT), or Rene Prado, (VP of Enrollment Management).

VII. TAMIU News / Staff Senate News

- HealthyU News
    - Vaccine Drive along with HEB – September 30th from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Link was provided in the chat to sign up.
    - Caregiver Webinar
    - Zombie Run 5K will be on Saturday, October 10th at 6:00pm. Link to sign up was provided in the chat for both full-time employees and non-employees. HealthyU will be sponsoring 15 full-time employees. If you're interested, please fill out the interest form.
    - Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Blue Cross Blue Shield will be offering breast cancer awareness webinars for full-time employees

which will take place on October 15th at 3:00pm. Registration link was provided in the link. Other Breast Cancer Awareness events are being planned, and details will be given out soon.
    - The next Catapult visit is planned for the spring semester and are planning to have two dates. The first one is most likely be in February and then the second one in May to allow the 90-day claim to go through.

- Book Scholarship
    - Book scholarship link is open and available to apply. TAMIU Staff Senate Book Scholarship Application - Fall 2026 – Fill out form
    - Deadline to apply is Friday, October 9th.

- Athletics Faculty & Staff Appreciation Day
    - Will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd during the Women's and Men's Soccer games.

- Line Dancing Class
    - Boots and Beats: Line Dancing Class will be on Thursday, September 24th at 5:30pm in ZSC 101.

- Insider – Stay up to date with any university news by reading the Insider.

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

VIII. Open Floor

- Save the Date: Holiday Gala will be on Saturday, December 12, 2026. More details to follow.
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IX. Door Prices

- Martha Medina
- Valeria Leal
- Alice Arce

X. Next Meeting – October 13, 2026

XI. Adjournment

1st motion: Juana Villagran
2nd motion: Chris Perez