**EC Minutes 2-19-2018**

**Pablo Arenaz**

Dr. Arenaz expressed the sentiment that the WBC event provided TAMIU with great exposure within the community.

Final enrollment for the spring semester is in and for the first time TAMIU passed 7,000 students.

TAMIU made the US News and World Report rankings for regional universities (see attachment). We ranked 70th in the west region. TAMIU was the second highest ranked institution in Texas. In the past, TAMIU did not even make this list. Dr. Arenaz would like to see us climb this list in the future.

Much happened at the Texas A&M System Board of Regents meeting last week. The highlights are as follows:

            Budget is due next Friday (March 2). We have a pretty good fix on what this year’s

budget will be like and can project a reasonable estimate of Designated Tuition. The

budget will be finalized on April 5.

A new focus of the Regents is on auditing. Also, beware that there are phishing attempts

out there that are attempting to get a wire transfer of funds. This happened last year with

someone who claimed they were with Adobe. Note that OIT will never request a username, password, SS#, etc. by e-mail.

There is still uncertainty on what will happen with the new A&M Rellis campus.

The Texas A&M System will offer a Scholarship targeting middle level families who might have trouble paying for tuition after Hurricane Harvey.

There was discussion about administrative appointment policy. Faculty do not have the right to veto the appointment of administrators. At TAMIU faculty serve an advisory role on administrative searches.

The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs met and mostly discussed co-curriculum issues. Also, low performing programs were discussed. Chemistry is ok for now but we want to keep an eye on graduate programs.

The Texas Legislative Joint Committee on Higher Education Funding is meeting both this week and next. This week the formula for Formula Funding is to be discussed and next week Special Item funding. In terms of the formula, TAMIU gets about $200K for being a smaller university.

A long discussion followed about TAMIU’s faculty to student ratio, which is now the highest in the system at 22/1.

In March, the EC will have an entire meeting devoted to metrics. Also in March EC will hear from the newly formed Imagine 2045 committee.

**Tom Mitchell**

Offered kudos for our new Regents Professor, Dr. Lozano. Last Friday, our Chancellor’s Teaching Award winner Dr. Lin was also recognized.

Discussion at the board meeting also included the possibility of banning all romantic relationships between students and faculty as a new system policy.

All TAMIU faculty development leaves were approved.

**Juan Castillo**

Provided to EC the annual (2017) report for the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, which is available on the web (<http://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/vpfinance/index.shtml)>.

**Minita Ramirez**

Thanks all of the departments for us reaching a spring time enrollment of 7,000 students.

The summer schedule is published and the fall schedule should be released by spring break.

In April, a couple of major events are scheduled.

            April 7 is Discover TAMIU Day

            April 19 to 21 TAMIU will host the Mariachi International Festival.

                        At this event space will be set aside for an academic exposition.

We had a great spirit week last week. Mr. and Ms. TAMIU was crowned last Saturday (2/17/18).

The participation award for Spirit Week again goes to Institutional Advancement.