

TAMIU Faculty Senate

Agenda

Friday, February 2, 2024

STC 230

- I. Call to Order
- II. Guests
 - a. Dr. Pablo Arenaz, President and
 - b. Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
 - i. Communicating observation procedures and summer scheduling procedures to deans and chairs.
 - ii. Follett meeting
 - iii. Announcements
 - c. Ms. Janet Carrillo and Ms. Monica Chavez
 - i. UC PPE
 - d. Dr. Manual Broncano
 - i. Environmental Humanities Initiative
- III. Approval of December Minutes
- IV. New Business
 - a. Financial Report for the University (in conjunction with Staff Senate)
 - b. Prescription Insurance (see attached email)
 - c. Senate web page pending FAQs
 - i. Books Included policy/procedure
 - ii. May pay options
 - iii. Ethics Point procedure
 - iv. IT maintenance schedule
 - d. Calendar Committee
 - e. Childcare facilities
 - f. Parenting website
 - g. Honor Council-Senator Houston
 - h. AI detection tools-no longer available on Turnitin
- V. Old Business
 - a. Internal Grants-**Dr. Kilburn will be our guest in March**
 - b. Labor Day Survey
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Academic Oversight
 - i. Early Tenure process
 - b. Budget and Finance
 - c. University Ethics

- i. Change in committee description
 - ii. Ethics Point procedure
 - d. Committee on Committees
 - i. Follow up on committees that need reps from Enrollment Management and Student Success
 - ii. Suggestion for Calendar Committee
 - e. Awards
 - f. Faculty Handbook
 - i. Follow up on list of revisions
 - 1. Senate Mission Statement
 - 2. TAC updated description
 - 3. Fixed-term classification policy
 - 4. Graduate Council changes
 - 5. TAMIU Mission Statement
 - ii. Pending
 - 1. Ethics Committee updated description
 - 2. Growth Plan for fixed-term faculty
 - 3. Early Tenure process
 - 4. Changes in committee (TAC and DEITC) composition to include Student Engagement and Enrollment Management and/or Graduate School representatives
 - g. Assessment
 - h. Distance Education and Instructional Technology
 - i. Addition of representative from Student Engagement (VOTE)
 - i. Technology Advisory
 - i. Addition of representative from Student Engagement (VOTE)
 - ii. Addition of representative from Graduate School (VOTE)
 - j. Fixed-Term Faculty
 - i. Growth Plan procedures

Prescription insurance (from HR)

I understand your frustration with Express Scripts because same thing has happened to me. When it comes to prescriptions, yes, specialty maintenance medications may need to go through the Express Scripts Pharmacy via mail in order to get the lowest rate and are a ridiculous price when picked up at a local pharmacy. When it comes to most prescriptions, including one time use prescriptions, those can be picked up at a local pharmacy at a copay.

I spoke with a local pharmacist and the pharmacist association has been bringing this up to the State of Texas because it is not just Express Scripts that does this; many of the other prescription insurance/drug companies that do that same thing. He said that until people write the senators and bring their own stories to their attention, they do not see anything changing.

Unfortunately, there is nothing that TAMIU can do about this situation since our benefits are through the Texas A&M University System. I have forwarded your concerns to the Director (Sheri Meyer) and Associate Director (Jessica Palacios) of The Texas A&M University System Benefits Administration and requested for them to address with Express Scripts and advise the System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (SEBAC). The next SEBAC Meeting is February 20, 2024, from 9:00am – 12:00pm via WebEx. Alice Arce can send you the meeting invitation if you would like to attend. At the end of the meeting, there is usually an open forum available to address the SEBAC Committee.

I will send you an individual email to see if we can assist in any way with your prescriptions, however, I cannot address these as a group since this is personal health information.

