

Executive Council Meeting

August 7, 2023

9:00 AM

University Update:

Dr. Arenaz:

1. Rosalinda Garcia was introduced as VP of Student Engagement; Juan Garcia has been promoted to VP Of Enrollment Management; Scheiby Fisher has been promoted to Associate VP of Enrollment Management.
2. Because of additional funding provided to higher education, tuition and fees will remain flat. We are capped for the next two years. Historically growth and increase in tuition and fees is what has funded our merit pool. State employees were given 5% across the board increase. Higher education is exempt from across the board increases; increases must be merit based. The state funded the increase for state employees; the state does not provide funding for merit pool increases. Higher education is NOT included in the state employee 5% across the board increase. This year, Dr. Arenaz is hoping for a decent sized merit pool.
3. Early readiness: students may graduate from HS early if they can show college readiness by successfully completing dual credit courses. If a higher education institution certifies the student is college ready, they may graduate from HS early (SB 2294)
4. HB 8: If an institution has a free lunch program, the state will pick up the cost for students doing dual credit. TAMIU will look at this for ECHS.
5. Diversity may be included in strategic plan. You may not have DEI words back-to-back. If you have the words diversity, equity or inclusion, you do open yourself up to scrutiny. TAMIU has already changed the language for the strategic plan. Mission statement still needs to be approved.
6. A big push for next year will be transfer students. If we are going to grow, we need to pick up more transfers. We are beginning some new strategies related to this population. We are also beginning some co-curricular activities to help transfer students develop relationships within the University. TAMUS and THECB are also concerned with the issue of transfer, so we need to make sure we are looking at our degrees to eliminate unnecessary barriers.
7. Dr. Torregoso mentioned that some students don't return because of finances. Mr. Garcia asked that deans refer these types of students to him. In addition, he stated that Texas grant covers what Pell grant does not. Texas grant requires a certain GPA (2.5 from year 2 on). Some students are in good academic standing, but don't have a 2.5, so they lose this funding and are unable to return to school. We need to make sure advisors are discussing finances/financial aid with their students.
8. Enrollment-we are flat compared to last year. Advisors should be calling students who are not enrolled.

Mr. Juan Garcia

1. More than 450 enrolled this week. We are 136 students below last year.
2. We still have a month to register.
3. Social media campaigns have started to encourage students to enroll.
4. Graduates will have an extra week of registration.
5. This is the last week of Summer II and Summer III. Final grades are due on Sunday.
6. We have 1350 freshman as of now, so we should make it to 1400; 400 transfer students.
7. We are on track to have 1900 students graduate this academic year.
8. In the fall, TAMIU will reach 30K degrees awarded.
9. Fall 24 application is open; 14 exchange students coming and will meet up with faculty from their home country; TRiO students attended a conference last week; TAMIU has been active in the community; MS and elementary schools are planning fall visits; Dusty Camp V is this week. Parent lunch will be on Thursday if faculty would like to attend; Student Counseling had a retreat last week and are preparing for the upcoming year.
10. If you are not sure who is over a certain program, email both Juan Garcia and Rosalinda Garcia.

Griz

1. Athletics staff retreat will be this week.
2. Fall sports will report this Saturday (8/12). On Sunday (8/13), they do physicals, paperwork, etc. On Monday, they will have their first practices (8/14).
3. On 8/22, there will be a student-athlete fall meeting.
4. Seasons being 8/31
5. 9/4: Future Dustdevils camp for children of employees.
6. KCB floor is in the process of getting a new paint job.
7. Lone Star Conference spring Commissioners Honor Roll: We had 106 athletes with a 3.3 or greater, 21 had a perfect 4.0.

Juan Castillo

1. Dusty Buy training is ongoing.
2. Fire drills are being scheduled.
3. Wall between diner and food court has come down; restrooms are being reconfigured.
4. Elevators in BLK and CWT are being replaced.
5. Merit has not been approved yet; contingent on enrollment.
6. Next year, enrollment growth will be only revenue stream for merit pool.
7. In Fall 21, we eliminated lowest level pay grade. Now we are increasing minimum entry salary for FT, benefits eligible employees (staff) to 30K.
8. No such thing as automatic increase based on time.
9. We are reviewing student pay scale, but change is not eminent.
10. Annual staff evaluations are due 10/15.

Rosanne Palacios

1. Tomorrow, we will have lunch for major donors for nursing
2. Alumni association meeting August 15.

3. Sames will be here for on August 16 for Sames orientation.
4. Working on two grants at this time

Staff Senate

1. New members will be sworn in tomorrow.

Faculty Senate

1. Handbook has been updated with minor changes.