

University Executive Council  
February 27, 2017 | BA 290 | 10:30 a.m.

- Secret Drawer Society (Hayley Pugh & Alex Howley)
  - Idea for organization came from an open forum; professors wanted less of a gap between them and the students outside of class
  - No dues; open to students, faculty, staff, and administrators
  - Email [tamucsdsgmail.com](mailto:tamucsdsgmail.com) with questions or to sign up for the mailing list (all that is needed is a name and CWID)
  - Participation in event management is strictly voluntary—membership in the group is receiving emails at its minimum
  - Members are encouraged to develop new ideas for events or projects as well as promote events that are taking place across campus
  - Goals of the organization
    - Promote creative thinking
    - Sponsor and promote the arts
    - Encourage communication, both within the student body and between the students and university employees
    - Add to the university's cultural and social education
    - Become a unique facet of the university
    - Encourage open-mindedness
  - Meeting with Deans Council scheduled for next week
  - Met with SGA President, who expressed support; a meeting with SGA is planned
  - Derek Preas will allow use of the box between Ferguson and Sowers Education South for the dropping of anonymous notes as is planned by the organization in the future
- University Update (Ray Keck)
  - Discussing gender equity and diversity
    - A group has met to discuss how to best confront these gender equity issues on campus at the institutional level and has brought ideas to administration
    - Consider creating a vehicle for discussing gender equity issues on campus (a center, or the like, was suggested by Dr. Sharon Kowalsky)
    - Due to the hiring freeze and impending budget cuts, a center or additional hires is not possible in the near future
    - UEC RESPONSE: Faculty Senate learned of a new diversity graduation requirement at College Station that consists of a course in which students learn to converse with those who have opposing viewpoints
    - UEC RESPONSE: Sanctuary status as a university
      - With regards to deportation, students are not a priority especially if they do not have a criminal record; this should be stressed to students, and they should be encouraged to try to avoid developing a record—even traffic violations
      - FERPA prohibits anyone from revealing a student's undocumented status
      - Immigration law is civil law, not criminal law; you cannot be arrested, only legally deported
      - Sanctuary status can make an institution appear suspicious (i.e. *what does the university have to hide?*)
  - House Appropriations Committee testimony
    - Should you wish to petition or speak out against any pending legislation, you may do so, but do not identify yourself as an employee of Texas A&M University-Commerce or The Texas A&M University System

- Representatives appeared to be receptive to the testimonies
    - Viewing of testimony: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/committee-broadcasts/85/> (2/24/17, Appropriations – S/C on Article III; Dr. Keck’s testimony begins at 2:02:37)
  - Faculty Senate and governance
    - Faculty Senate has not been involved in the development and maintenance of rules and procedures as stated by our own university procedure
      - See *01.01.R0.02 Development and Maintenance of University Rules and Procedures*
    - Make a conscious effort to include Faculty Senate where possible and appropriate in governance, consultation, events, etc.
- Summer Schedule (Ray Keck)
  - Considering a staff and administrator schedule during the summer that would allow for a half day on Fridays—faculty would not be affected
  - Suggested schedule: 7:30-5:30 on Monday-Thursday and 8-12 on Friday
  - UEC RESPONSE: exemptions and considerations
    - Freshman orientations (and the like) would need to be accounted for, but with enough notice, this could be worked around
    - One Stop Shop may be exempt to keep traditional hours
    - New hours would need to be prominently posted on the web
    - Start date would have to be coordinated with Payroll to coincide with the biweekly pay calendar
    - Some of our third-party contractors may not be willing to follow a different schedule (SSC) while others may be more flexible (CAG)
    - Library will have its own operating schedule
    - Will have to coordinate with the Children’s Learning Center to be sure that daycare is provided for employees
  - Staff Council will send a survey out to the staff requesting input on this topic
- Campus Project Approvals and Schedules (Derek Preas)
  - Several active projects and hundreds of work orders are currently open
  - Staff are not able to complete these without creating delays
  - Beginning in March, work orders and projects will be prioritized
  - All work orders and projects will be completed, but prioritization is necessary with the backlog that has been created due to the number of requests
- Athletic Fee Referendum (Tomás Aguirre)
  - Last possible date for the referendum to be hosted: April 12, 2017
  - General concerns: economic climate, abbreviated timeline, and no margin for error (i.e. this is a one-time-only opportunity)
  - Keys to success
    - One support team and one lead
    - Abbreviated and fixed timeline
    - Coordinated and aligned effort
    - Campaign focuses: “increased faculty lines”, “reduced time to graduation”, and “overall savings”
    - “Student-driven and staff-supported” model
  - Fact sheet
    - Lowest fee within the system
    - Institutional funds are currently used to supplement the low fee
    - Could create up to 22 faculty lines
      - UEC RESPONSE: this number needs to be amended, or clarified, to explain that 6 of these lines are already guaranteed
    - A&M-Commerce will still have one of the lowest tuition and fees in the region
    - Current students not impacted per the guaranteed tuition plan

- Will be an increase of \$273 per semester (for students taking 13 or more SCH)
    - Support team: Dr. Tomás Aguirre (chair), Tim McMurray, Dr. LaVelle Hendricks, Erica Contreras, Scott Cason, Alexandra Corrales, Tamandria Brown, and Student Support Team
      - UEC RESPONSE: consider adding an additional faculty member to the support team to be selected by or with consultation of Faculty Senate
    - UEC RESPONSE: fact sheet needs editing and will be resent on the listserv
  - Timeline
    - Phase 1: meet with administrative councils to inform them of the campaign messaging; begin web campaign
    - Phase 2 (current): meet with student organizations and clubs; put out posters and flyers across campus; radio messaging
    - Phase 3: tabling and open forums
  - Keck: event center
    - This may be able to help create in addition to other funds
  - Keck: should be consulting Faculty Senate more, per our own policies (look at policy)
  - Berri O'Neal: can encourage faculty on off-campus locations to talk to their students about voting
- Frisco Update (Berri O'Neal)
  - First general information session held last week
    - Over 100 prospective students attended
    - 65 information cards were submitted by students requesting more information
  - Another session will take place tomorrow at Preston Ridge
  - Establishing a physical presence on the campuses
    - An office has been created on the Preston Ridge campus
    - Signs on the campus: "Lions are now welcome in the Cougar Den"
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  - Phase 2 will take place during the month of March
    - Visiting classes to talk about the new campuses and the possibility of completing a degree on each
    - Specific forums will be had based on each degree
  - A&M-Commerce has been invited to set up tables at various events on campus
    - Deans will be hosting tables
    - Tables must include activities in order to hand out informational brochures