



Senate Meeting  
September 23, 2020  
Pride @ 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order-6:05
- II. Roll Call
  - Senator Carlee-Present
  - Senator Drake-Present
  - Senator Hays-Present
  - Senator Plunkett-Absent
  - Senator Rios-Present
  - Senator Schessler-Present
  - Senator Standbridge-Present
  - Vice President Cooper-Present
  - Vice President Williams-Present
  - President Jaeger-Present
- III. Approval of the Minutes- Rios moves to approve, 2nded by Schessler, no objections
- IV. Approval of the Agenda- Rios moves, 2nded by Cooper
- V. Open General Student Input-No Students
- VI. Guest Speaker
  - A. Dr. Mark Rudin (President) -President Rudin came to talk to us about the safety of our students and how to minimize ways to have students on campus. Most instruction will be wrapped up by Thanksgiving at the discretion of the instructor so students do not have to come back to campus after seeing their families. Rudin also mentioned that Texas A&M University-Commerce will most likely cancel Spring Break for the 2021 spring semester. This means that we will get out a week earlier than we usually would. This affects staff, since they get 2 days off during the original spring break, but they will have 2 extra days to take off during the semester.
    - a. Question: Is this why we're wanting to end classes early this year?



- i. This is not their motive, they just want to make a decision now, so that people don't buy unnecessary travel expenses.
  - b. Question: After Thanksgiving Break, are classes still online?
    - i. The semester doesn't end. It will be determined by the professor but classes are still able to meet after Thanksgiving break.
  - c. Question: If someone has a child at home during spring break, and the professor is not willing to work with the student, who should they contact?
    - i. They should email John Humphreys, the provost, [John.Humphreys@tamuc.edu](mailto:John.Humphreys@tamuc.edu), [Judy.Sackfield@tamuc.edu](mailto:Judy.Sackfield@tamuc.edu) , and [Mark.Rudin@tamuc.edu](mailto:Mark.Rudin@tamuc.edu)
  - d. Question: I know some students who feel like they are not getting enough value for their money, since everything is online.
    - i. In person and online are not that much different. You are able to watch lectures on D2L which makes it easy to switch from online and in person and vice versa.
  - e. Question: I know West Texas A&M was able to get temperature guns, are we able to get those?
    - i. The temperature guns are not a resourceful resource to determine if someone has COVID; it just tells you if they have a fever.
  - f. Question: Are we able to ask the students for resources/documentation if they go out of town to get a COVID test?
    - i. Some people do not show up positive on the test, even if they are positive.
- B. Tina Livingston (Vice President for Finance and Administration)-
- a. Guests Include:Paula hanson (Associate Vice President for finance and Administration&Comptroller), Charles Robnett (Bursar/ Director of Student Accounts), Renee Walker (Director of Financial Aid)
  - b. The enrollment for fall 2010 was 10,000. The Fall 2024 stretch goal is 13,250 students.
  - c. Some new initiatives are as followed:
    - i. Establishment of division&student success-\$1.25 m



- ii. Enhancement to Student Health Services (new Health Service fee) ,Counseling, Student Disabilities Services-\$720k
- iii. Scholarships and grants-2.3 million.
- iv. Additional covid-19 contingency-285k
- d. Question: Is the \$720k for the full academic year?
  - i. Yes, everything is for the full 2020-2021 academic year.
- e. Question: What does FTE stand for?
  - i. It stands for full time equivalent of staff.

C. Erica Contreras (Budget Director)- Erica talked about the Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Revenue Budget and the Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Expense Budget. The Proposed revenue budget includes a total revenue of \$192 million with enrollment being 44%. TAMUC gets funds appropriated from the state to help with maintenance and special projects. The Proposed Expense Budget is \$191 million plus \$13 million in transfers. TAMUC has some scholarship initiatives. A recent one was the “Lucky You” Initiative which gave students the opportunity for a free course for the fall if they were registered by a certain date. There were 1,900 students who participated in this initiative. Some other initiatives include Quick Start Scholarships(designated for graduate students), Stop Out Scholarships(Undergraduate, If you had a significant life crisis happen), and the Agriculture BOGO Scholarship.

- a. Question:Fall 2020 is not showing up on your charts, is Fall 2020 lower?
  - i. We are a little down in enrollment, but up in credit hours.
- b. How long has the “Stop Out” Scholarship been out for ?
  - i. It has been out for about a year and a half.
- c. Scholarship Initiatives
  - 1. Rodeo, Frisco BSW Social Work, Rising Lions and Dallas Promise(first time students, International Student Relief(not eligible for cares-investment from institution), greatness need fun(international), strategic scholarship funding(all colleges)



- D. Charles Robnett- Charles talked about how the refund process and disbursement works. Refunds are processed every day through Bankmobile Disbursements. Students are not required to open a Bank Mobile account in order to receive the refund. 80% of students use direct deposit to put it into their existing account, which speeds up the process. Students are also able to get refunds by a check or a Bank Mobile checking account. In 2019-2020, there were 21,000 refunds which totaled to about \$41 million. Charles also talked about the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, which is a bill passed back in March to help students with any financial burdens this pandemic has caused them. Charles also talked about the housing meal plan refunds for the Spring 2020 semester. Students were given the option to cancel their meal plan which resulted in a credit on their account for the meals they didn't use. They could also defer the credit to fall and get a \$500 scholarship which more than 500 students took the opportunity of.
- a. Question: What is the app called for Bankmobile Disbursements?
    - i. It is an app on MyLeo which takes you directly to the refund selection process. The university cannot see your bank information.
  - b. Question: What happens if you have a card on file but have to get a new card since the old one expired.
    - i. Students can always change their information at any time.
  - c. Question: How did TAMUC credit back for housing refunds?
    - i. Housing had prorated charges so if you defer to fall and get \$500.
  - d. Question: What about the students w payment plans?
    - i. Credit would come back and pay again in the fall.
  - e. Question: Housing sent an email to all of the residents to pick a move out date if students wanted to live at home right after spring break. They also said you must self quarantine for 2 weeks, if you traveled anywhere which



happened to a few people. I feel like people lost out on some money due to this.

- i. Please contact Judy Sackfield or Tina Livingston's office.
- f. Question: May we please go back to the Fiscal Year 20221 Propose Expense Budget?
  - i. The chart includes Personnel costs, operations and maintenance , scholarships, debt service, equipment (capitalized), utilities.
- g. Question: Students don't understand the financial aid process?
  - i. Success teams- advisors. EAB to request appointments. Call them to set up a zoom. Try to limit contact and do zoom. F2f when absolutely necessary.all on campus.
  - ii. Student accounts- email or [studentdocaccounts@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdocaccounts@tamuc.edu)
    1. Cashier- can answer questions.
    2. No appointment- open door policy
- h. Question: Different from last semester, more of a rush to pay this semester.
  - i. Student tuition loan or installment plan. Happens every semester, related to the way the states fund us. 1 on 1 case by case - talk to charles robnett. Don't get dropped if you miss a payment.

## VII. Executive Board Reports

- A. President Jaeger -No Report.
- B. Vice President Williams- We are doing awesome! I hope you are all well and maintaining good vibes, just in case we have to switch to online classes.
- C. Vice President Cooper- I am currently making a document with some committee ideas. The event proposal form is one per committee/event.

## VIII. Advisor Report

- A. Jeremy Sippel- Get People to apply to the Student Regent and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Applications are open! There are 2 sessions on Monday from 10-10:30 am and 12-12:30 pm (Meeting ID: 257 696 4177). Polos



have been ordered, just waiting for payment approval. I have ordered a gift for all of you, will let you know when it is here! Please schedule a one on one ASAP and be prepared to talk about leadership goals and benchmark goals. The SGA office will now be completely locked. You will have to swipe your student ID to get into the office. If the lights are off, please do not go into the office.

IX. Old Business -No Old Business.

X. New Business

A. Judicial Board appointments

1. Rachel Flurry- Rachel is a social work person who has years of experience. She is honest, goal oriented, fair, and a people person. She wants to do this because she thinks it would be a great opportunity for her to be a part of something big.

a) Question: Why do you want to serve on the Judicial Board?

(1) I want to be in a position to navigate for people when people can't advocate for themselves.

b) Question: If there was a situation that affected you personally, will you be unbiased?

(1) Yes, I would be able to separate my personal life from this position to best advocate for the person.

c) Question: Has there been situations besides social work that you advocated?

(1) Yes, being in a hospital setting, you advocate for patients. Some examples include different cultures, mental health, friction between doctors, and race issues.

(2) You have to see both sides of the story, then try to meet in the middle.

d) Question: What is your biggest strength and biggest weakness?

(1) Strength- Wanting to fix everything.



(2) Weakness- Sometimes you can't help everyone, and I just have to accept that.

2. Discussion: Schessler- I liked that she worked in a medical field, gives me an idea of what type of pressure she has already been in.
3. Standbridge- I liked her strength and weakness response.
4. Rios- It looks like she has great experience and loves to help people. She doesn't shy away from intense issues such as race.
5. Drake- She definitely wants to help people.
6. Schessler- She is able to play devil's advocate, make fair decisions even though it's a hard decision. Making hard decisions would be a strength for

Williams gave the oath of office, Rachel Flurry got initiated.

B. Christian Waters

- a) Cooper motion to table, Schessler 2nd Catelyn and Christian for next week.
- b) Tabled for next week

C. Catelyn Butler

- a) Tabled for next week

XI. Officer Report

- A. Vice Chair- Make sure to do your 2 office hours a week. The form will be sent out by Monday 9/28, just waiting on something from the advisor.
- B. Secretary- I send out agendas every week on Thursday or Friday, please let her know if you are not getting them.
- C. Treasurer- There is a copy of the SGA budget for everyone. If you are virtual, I can get the copy to you most likely by email.

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment- Moved by Senator Carlee to adjourn at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Senator Schessler.