



Minutes for the Staff Senate Meeting

April 8, 2019 9:30 – 11:30AM

Brownsville Salon Cassia 2.402/ Zoom: <https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/816857679>

- I. Call to Order –by Staff Senate President, Peter James Ehimika
- II. **Establishment of Quorum**, attendance was taken Monica Tovar, Staff Senate Secretary
Senators Present: Peter James Ehimika, Gilbert Perez, Veronica De La Garza, Monica Tovar, Diana Ocanas, Milagro (Millie) Hernandez, Alisha Puentes, Luis Alcocer, Karen A. Dorado, Jocelyn Foster, Rebekah Sepulveda, Teresa Villarreal, Alberto Adame, Carla Renee Lopez, Isabel Saldana, Roberto R. Cantu, Nicole Englitsch , David Torres
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - motion by Senator Veronica De La Garza to approve minutes, motion was 2nd by Teresa Villarreal
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention Mr. Glenn Yri
Counseling Specialist II, Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention [OVAVP]
Glenn.yri@utrgv.edu, ELCTR156 – Edinburg

Who are we? The Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) works with students, staff, and faculty, and community partners to strive for a campus free from gender-based and interpersonal violence and to facilitate services for victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and interpersonal violence.

ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY OVAVP ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL. Let me share some of the information we share with students:

The Continuum of Force: Examples of different behaviors

Identify these behaviors

- Typical things partners do
- Not OK, but Not Sexual Violence
- Sexual Violence

No Right or Wrong Answer

The Continuum of Force

- Interpersonal Violence can sometimes be difficult to identify and process.
- Remember there are no right or wrong responses
- Interpersonal Violence can be sexual, emotional, physical, or economical.
- Interpersonal Violence can be very difficult subject to discuss and easy to minimize or ignore.

National Statistics

- Approximately 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year.
- Approximately 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their college tenures.
- Most instances of sexual assault are perpetrated by someone the victim knows or is acquainted with.
- Intimate partner physical abuse has declined almost 70% since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994.

Confidential & Client – Centered

What does it mean to be confidential?

- Anything that is disclosed will not be reported to University Officials
- Anything that is disclosed will not be reported to Law Enforcement
- Advocates will not disclose any information without consent from the client

Exceptions: Confidentiality may be broken in instances of imminent threat to self or others, or if there is suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elder, or person with a debilitating disability.

OVAP provides services to staff also.

Who we serve?

- Our office is open to all currently enrolled students, faculty, and staff at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)
- Domestic/dating violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) do not discriminate. Anyone can be subject to violence victimization, regardless of gender, color, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, size, social economic status or level of education.
- Our doors are open to any UTRGV affiliate who seeks our services.

How we can serve

- ✓ Direct victim and survivor support services by assisting with connecting with navigating campus and community resources:
 - Legal systems
 - Law enforcement
 - Medical or health support
 - Housing assistance
 - Support groups
 - Other Client needs
- ✓ Promoting awareness through educational activities and programs
- ✓ Activism for promoting change in beliefs and institutional and local policies



Victim Advocates

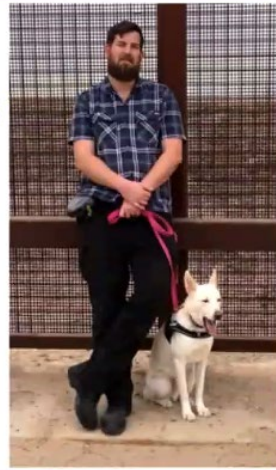
- Victim Advocates at UTRGV work directly with students and provide confidential, non-judgmental assistance to victims and survivors
- Advocates can explain rights, assist connecting with campus and community resources to help victims and survivors with appropriate accommodations for their unique situations.
- **Priscila Palacios, MSW, Program Coordinator**
 - Edinburg Campus – ELCTR 156 (Learning Center)
 - Phone: (956)665-8287
- **Miguel Venegas, MA, Program Coordinator**
 - Brownsville Campus – BNOBL 106 (North Office Building; Formerly Book Bee)
 - Phone: (956)665-8282

Counseling Staff

A Counseling Specialist II provides trauma-informed counseling services to victims and survivors to address mental health concerns such as:

- Anxiety and Depression
- Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms
- Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence
- Mind-Body Dissociation
- Substance Use
- Healthy Relationships

Glenn Yri, MSCP, Counseling Specialist II
Edinburg/Brownsville – ELCTR 156/BNOBL 106
Phone: (956)665-9374



Our Director

Cynthia Jones, Ph.D.
Founding Director of OVAVP &
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Edinburg Campus – ELCTR 156

Dr. Cynthia Jones provides confidential advocacy support services for all staff and faculty clients. She can be contacted directly at cynthia.jones@utrgv.edu



Comments or Question:

Do you have any outside work to support anti Bullying? Grants are specific with UTRGV so not at this time.

Comments: I'd to bring my dog, to work. Bring the request to HR.

b. Future Meeting Guests and Topics- Mr. Peter-James Ehimika Athletics, Facilities to discuss updates and new plans.

V. Pending Items

- a. Historian Vacancy Update/ Mr. Peter-James Ehimika
Position has been filled by: Jesus Buitron
- b. Constitution - Ms. Alisha Puentes & Ms. Teresa Villarreal
Alisha - updates, Vice President definition: Option 4 most popular, serve as Vice President until next year of elections.

Review the 4 options:

1. VP must be 2nd year of 3yr term
2. 1 more year in their term
3. Learn currently responsibilities
4. **Change the roles completely.

Comments: Rebekah, confirming wording. Go back to the wording and so it can be read and voted by senate. Then by staff at large.

VI. Public Comments & Questions

a. What's Brewing?- Discussion/Event

- ✓ Thank you / Question – What is the status on hiring freeze? Is there a process that is communicated with the supervisor? Should we keep asking or is there a process? The Legislation session should drive the hiring freeze. Senator Veronica De La Garza, it depends with leadership, but it is looking really well.
- ✓ Senator Teresa Villarreal, question about progress for covered areas for bus stops. Do we have a status?
- ✓ Senator Carla Lopez today is the last day to register for Spring into Action UTLivingwell well.
- ✓ UREC, has been good about opening 11:30 -1:30 5:30-7:30 PM (Mon/Wed/Frid) open to staff to come in
- ✓ Senator Milagro (Millie) Hernandez- National Library Week, it's on Facebook, Instagram and website.
- ✓ Senator David Torres commented, we asked about the hiring freeze, and Mike James, did mention it is ongoing. However, what is the outlook for the University? Maybe an update would be good.
- ✓ UTRGV Newsroom/marketing has a new outlet for headlines and news about UTRGV. You are also able to sign up for email updates. <https://www.utrgv.edu/newsroom/index.htm>
- ✓ Senator Veronica De La Garza- public reminder, lot of local elections. Brownsville will be a voting site for Mayoral voting in Brownsville.

b. Comments and Questions: Guests and Senators

VII. Committee Reports

- a. All committees will deliver updates on their most recent meeting(s) and developments.

I.	Processes & Infrastructure - Mr. Nick Dubberly & Ms. Monica Tovar We had a guest in the audience and we invited Annie Jones, Policy & Communication Coordinator to introduce herself and to describe the ongoing project she is a part of.
	Guest, Annie Jones reported that UTRGV is looking updating their website, she is not the lead (marketing and communication is working on this project)
	They are working at updating website, looking policies and master list of forms, resource page for users: faculty, staff, students.
	Just 2-3 weeks in and should be quick process for the ease in navigation.

II.	Staff Success - Ms. Carla Lopez & Ms. Karen Dorado
	Carla Employee Team Award, team was approved.

III.	Innovation - Ms. Yvette Padilla & Ms. Veronica De La Garza
	Yvette, thanks to Veronica De La Garza and Gilbert Perez
	We have another What's Brewing on May 13th – Harlingen. Before the Senate Meeting
	Recently met with Cris Trejo and Dr. Mendiola asked them how to get invoiced for Carnegie, Faculty Senate
	Food pantry - in May donations accepted

Announcements: Ad Astra Scheduling - new event planners training.
Maybe we can invite Approvers to a meeting.

Senator Jocelyn Foster motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was 2nd by Senator Carla Lopez.
Motion.