

## UTRGV Staff Senate – June 10, 2021

### I. Call to Order / Roll Call

**Present:** Noelynn Llasos; Laura Ramos; Claudia Dole Morrison; Karen Dorado; Rogelio Chanes; Kevin Garza; Nicolas Dubberly; Nayeli Garcia; Ashley Mercado; Maria Juarez-Serna; Orlando Castaneda; Tammy Munoz; Veronica Villarreal; Armando Garza; Matthew Pollock; Marisa Campirano; Kelli Quin; Milagro (Millie) Resendez; Alisha Puentes; Teresa Villarreal; Irene Cardenas; Andres Chavez; Yadira Mejia; Caitlin Bruseth; Jacob Camacho

### II. Welcome / Introduction: Staff Senate President – Noelyn Llasos

- Alisha - Motion to table approval of May minutes; Matthew - seconded; Motion passed.

### III. Guest Speakers

#### a. UREC: Fay Kennan; Fitness & Wellness Coordinator / Dr. Kimberly Rottet; Director

- Social distancing is still required.
- Still sanitizing building after 3 hour blocks.
- Hybrid approach for summer sessions.
- UREC is applicable to Faculty and Staff (fee must be at least what students pay but can be a monthly paycheck deduction).
- Outdoor pool has been reopened; lockers are also available.

### Facilities Updates

- Additional Amenities
- Expanded Hours of Operation (Edinburg Campus)
- Reservation Still Required
- Capacity Limitations Remain
- Some Informal Recreation Activities Not Yet Approved
  - i.e. Informal Basketball and most team activities

### Looking Ahead

- Anticipate remaining restrictions lift, i.e. back to "normal".
- Figuring out what the UREC new "normal" is.
  - What remains as a digital option.
  - Will traffic patterns change as a result of COVID.
- Seeking Additional Campus & Community Partnerships
  - Vaquero Olympics (Summer 2021)
  - Look for more in Fall 2021

### Programming Updates

- Digital Engagement
  - eGaming, Fitness, Camp Programming, Outdoor Adventure Videos
- Fitness Challenges – Suns Out, Guns Out
- Group Exercise – Hybrid Participation (NEW)
  - Also NEW Brownsville Group Fitness
- Intramural Sports – Summer Activity Planned
- Virtual Youth Rec Camp
- Wellness – Personal Training
  - In Person and Digital

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6:00 PM	YOGA Mollie	ZUMBA Xochitl YOGA Paulina	CYCLE FIT Jessica	ZUMBA Shelby YOGA Paulina	CYCLE FIT Jessica	
7:00 PM	ZUMBA Xochitl	AQUA ZUMBA KZ	ZUMBA Shelby	AQUA ZUMBA KZ		

TUE & THU at 6PM: Live in Brownsville - Salon Jacaranda (RM 2.22)

LIVE IN STUDIO 1 & BROWNSVILLE | UTRGV UNIVERSITY RECREATION | ZOOM MEETING ID: 211-760-632

### Questions

Kimberly Rottet, Ed.D.  
Director, University Recreation  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
(956) 665-7802  
kimberly.rottet@utrgv.edu

#### b. Dr. Guy Bailey; University President

- Thank you to all staff for all you have done during this interesting and difficult time.
- Fall and Spring were record enrollments.
- Early decisions like the hiring freeze helped UTRGV get through without any layoffs or furloughs.

- No new money in last legislative session; they did fund enrollment growth.
- Best legislative session we have ever had.
- All new money we get back will go back into our people.
- ALL ITEMS BELOW DEPEND ON APPROVAL AT BOARD OF REGENTS AUGUST MEETING:
  - 3 pots of money that will go into salaries.
    - 2% merit raise – effective September.
    - Equity compression to get all workforce up to 25% of market value.
    - Raise UTRGV minimum wage to \$13.00 per hour.
- Will resume some selective hiring (Vice Presidents will be asked to be very selective).
- Will restore travel money.
- Please get vaccinated if you have not done so.
- Valley has done much better than the rest of Texas when it comes to vaccinations.
- By Fall, mostly back face to face for the benefit of our students. Last year was a disaster for Freshman, so we know that for students coming in, this is a necessity.
- We cannot legally do vaccine mandates.
- We cannot require masks, but we do still encourage them – especially indoors.
- Supervisors can ask employees to come back to work; work with department/division heads for these situations.
- UTRGV Med school continues to monitor situation(s).
- UTRGV Daycare – working on plans to get this underway.
- Devoted almost all Federal stimulus money we received to students & will continue to do so.
- Used our own money to assist DACA students.
- Hiring freeze did not affect student workers.
- Any support you can provide for students, helps us with our retention.

#### IV. Committee Updates

- I. **Communications Committee - Senator Millie Resendez, Chair / Senator Rogelio Chanes, Co-Chair**
  - Staff Senate Spotlight: Kelli Quin feature for June.
  - Follow us for Meme Mondays.
  - YouTube channel for Staff Senate now active.
  - Wellness Wednesday – working on recipes and more for this.
- II. **Staff Success Committee - Senator Claudia Dole Morrison, Chair / Senator Jacob Camacho, Co-Chair**
  - Meeting every month to discuss initiatives for staff appreciation, wellness, & learning opportunities.
  - Idea in the works for welcoming staff back to campus in the month of August.
  - 55 new Tech Ambassadors in TEAMS group after our last meeting.
- III. **Elections & Constitution Committee - Senator Caitlin Bruseth, Chair / Senator Irene Cardenas, Co-Chair**
  - Main project is getting staff list to use for voting on amendment proposals / revisions & elections.
- IV. **Feedback Committee - Senator Karen Dorado, Chair / Senator Nick Dubberly, Co-Chair**
  - Encourage all to use Staff Senate Feedback Form: [Feedback Form](#)
- V. **Email Taskforce - Peter-James Ehimika**
  - Currently working with university marketing to explore the style guide and coming up with some potential guidelines for emails or templates for emails that will be included in the style guide. More to come.

#### V. Public Comments / Questions -

- Police presence on Harlingen campus – hearing that it may go away?  
**NOTE TO ABOVE QUESTION– PER STAFF SENATE EMAIL sent 6/25/21:**
  - UTRGV Police Services Department has confirmed our campus police is not altering PD staffing levels at the Harlingen campus or considering not having a presence there. In fact, there was “a recent internal decision to rotate our academic campus-based officers and our UT Health-based officers. Previous to this change, officers who worked at the Harlingen and Edinburg UT Health sites did not usually engage in the normal staff rotations through the Brownsville and Edinburg academic sites, nor did the academic-based officers regularly rotate through the UT Health sites. In order to

increase familiarization and proficiency with all of our UTRGV family of locations, we are now beginning rotations through patrol assignments. As a result, this should actually increase coverage at our UT Health sites such as Harlingen as more officers will be available for assignments there, rather than having it be restricted to a smaller subset of our department staffing. Also, this only applies to our police officers – the public safety officers will remain assigned to a permanent post/duty station.” We applaud Staff Senator Karen Dorado and the members of the [Feedback Committee](#) for taking swift action in addressing this concern.

- Employee opportunities (for upward mobility) seem to be all in Edinburg. Can this be addressed to get more in Brownsville?

**Per Kristina Chavez; Director of Compensation & Talent Acquisition (HR)** – We do try whenever possible to open on all campuses; strongly recommend using interest cards in PeopleAdmin so that when things open that you would have interest in, you get email about that ad. [https://careers.utrgv.edu/interest\\_cards](https://careers.utrgv.edu/interest_cards)

**VI. Motion to Adjourn: Karen Dorado; seconded from Nicolas Dubberly; Meeting adjourned.**