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Staff Senate

Meeting Agenda

Friday, July 28, 2023

9:00am-10:30am

[Zoom Meeting ID](#): 891 2290 5007

I. 9:00am Call to Order

Kelli Quin, Parliamentarian

"I call this meeting to order at 9:00am. We will proceed with Roll Call with Madam Secretary Marisa Campirano."

II. 9:01am Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

Marisa Campirano, Secretary

"I will now begin Roll Call. Staff Senators, please indicate your attendance by stating "Aye" in the Zoom chat" (call Staff Senators name)."

"Quorum has been established."

III. 9:05am Welcome & Introduction

Yadira Mejia, Staff Senate President

Good morning, Everyone! Happy Friday! Welcome to our Staff Senate General Meeting for July 2023. Our last meeting for the academic year 22-23. It is wonderful to have you here with us! We hope that you have been having a wonderful summer! Especially with this heat, it can be crazy hot. Make sure you all stay hydrated!

We will begin our meeting with.....

IV. 9:07am New Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 2023

- **Yadira:** Is there a motion on the floor for the approval of Meeting Minutes for February 2023?
- **Staff Senator Veronica Villarreal:** I move to table the Meeting Minutes for February 2023.
- **Yadira:** Is there a Second?
- **Staff Senator Marisa Campirano:** I second.
- **Yadira:** All those in favor please state aye in the Zoom chat. All opposed? Any abstinences.
 - Meeting Minutes for February 2023 have been tabled.

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Alright, the next part of our agenda brings us to a dear and special guest. She was instrumental in hiring much of the university's initial leadership team while also playing a key role in helping UTRGV obtain accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

As Provost, what can I say, her contributions are too numerous, but she did tackle some pressing institutional priorities such as:

- creating a culture of collaboration and cross-divisional coordination in support of our students;
- establishing a decentralized approach to budgeting for our academic and health colleges/schools;
- streamlining policies and procedures
- developing governance procedures for space utilization and planning;
- supporting and facilitating the development of 15 new programs, including 5 doctoral programs; and leading UTRGV's certification as a Seal of Excelencia university.

And much more!

Let us welcome, Executive Vice President, Dr. Janna Arney...

V. 9:10am-9:35am Guest Speaker

✓ *Dr. Janna Arney*, Executive Vice President

I prepared some ideas to think about as the year ends.

Thank you for your presentation, Dr. Arney!

Fellow colleagues, please join me both in wishing Dr. Arney a long and happy retirement and in letting her know how deeply appreciative we are for all that she has done for UTRGV and our legacy institution, The University of Texas-Brownsville.

VI. 9:35am-Committee Reports

Communications Committee	Elections & Constitution Committee	Feedback Committee	Staff Success Committee
<p><u>Chair:</u> <i>Melanie Garza</i></p> <p><u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Rolando Segovia</i></p> <p><u>Members:</u> <i>Cristina De Leon</i> <i>Juan Santos-Flores</i> <i>Karina Flores</i> <i>Tammy Munoz</i> <i>Javier Salinas</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <i>Monica Granado</i></p> <p><u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Irene Cardenas</i></p> <p><u>Members:</u> <i>Cristina De Leon</i> <i>David Guerra</i> <i>Kelli Quin</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <i>Jazmin Zuniga</i></p> <p><u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Marisa Campirano</i></p> <p><u>Members:</u> <i>Melba Cantu</i> <i>Karen Dorado</i> <i>Nicole Englitsch</i> <i>Cordelia Rasa</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <i>Marivel Mata</i></p> <p><u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Veronica Villarreal</i></p> <p><u>Members:</u> <i>Claudia Dole</i> <i>Ricardo Lopez</i> <i>Ashley De La Garza</i></p>

VII. 9:50am Public Comments & Questions

Kelli Quin, Parliamentarian

Yadira (after everyone has said their comments): I'd like to thank you all for your support towards Staff Senate. On behalf of this member, we are honored to have serve this academic year 2022-2023.

VIII. Adjourn

Yadira opens the Staff Senator floor to make a motion*

'If there aren't any further Public Comments or Questions, we will now move to make motion to adjourn.

- **Staff Senator Marisa Campirano:** "I move to adjourn the Staff Senate General Meeting for the month of July"
- **Yadira-** Is there a second?
- **Staff Senator Javier Salinas-** I second.
- **Yadira-** Is there any Debate or Discussion, Debate or Discussion, Debate or Discussion? All those in favor please state aye (in Zoom chat), all opposed (in Zoom chat), any abstentions?
- **Kelli Adjourns atAdjourned at 9:57 am**

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Good morning, everyone. Happy Friday. Welcome to our staff general meeting for July 2023. Our last meeting for the academic year. It is wonderful to not be here with us. So we hope that you have a wonderful time. And so we hope that you are also having a wonderful summer especially with this sleep. So make sure that you're hydrated and we'll begin our meeting with moving on to our next item via agenda which is business. Is there a motion on the floor for the approval of meeting minutes for February 2023?

I move to table the meeting minutes for February 2023.

Is there a second? I second? All those in favor please stay I'm zoom chats. Stop senators.

All oppose Any abstentions?

We the minutes for February 2023 has been tabled.

Alright. So and the next part of our agenda.

We do have a very special guest who is dear to us. And so she has been an instrumental in hiring in university leadership. A team also played a key role in our helping UTRGV have taken the accreditation for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools commission oncologist that was a long name. As Provost, what can I say? Her contributions are too numerous. Right? And so she was able to tackle a lot of pressing institutional priorities, which again, there's a lot to mention, but some of those is free in that culture of collaboration. That cause additional and supportive students, establishing them centralized approach to budgeting for academic and health colleges and schools, streamlining obviously policies and procedures and obviously much more in regards to that but let us welcome executive vice president Dr. Gina Arne.

Morning, everyone. Thank you so much for inviting me. I really appreciate it. One of the one of my great privileges has been since 2014 Being liaison to staff senate and so being able to work together through all of our evolutionary changes has been has been a privilege and so thank you very much for that warm, warm welcome. And so I prepared some some ideas to think about as we conclude a year or and I guess we never conclude a year right because we're about ready to start a new year and so it's always this fast track for all of us. And so I want to just to share some some great work and I want to point out that nothing I've ever accomplished or any of us ever accomplished at UTRGV has ever done alone. It always takes a village and it takes a team and it takes all of us working together. And so I'm really grateful for that. And I hope that as we as we talk through some of the some of the great work that's happened at UTRGV most recently that we that you think about the contributions from your areas. Because there's really not anybody on this call that hasn't contributed to these to these accomplishments and to these areas because as a university, it takes all of us to be here to

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provide a product for our students to provide an education for our students. That's what attracts them to come to us. But what keeps him here is all of you. So it's it's really a joint effort. So I hope that you'll you'll reflect on how your individual units are really contributing to each of these accomplishments.

So you should I share? Yes, doctor, okay. Okay. So let me know your flow for sure. So, yeah, and I promise I, well, I you know, I tried to keep it as short as possible, but you know, sometimes that's really hard. So I'll try to go really fast. But if anybody has any questions or wants to talk about something different than that's great too, so hold on

okay.

Okay, number 11 Are y'all somebody's not on mute? I think so. I'm not.

Yeah, it's a good month for me. Okay, I don't know who that is. It's not me, I promise.

Okay, so I think we know.

So why don't you talk a little bit. I wanted to start with the future of Texas because I think we throw this around and when we came up with this, and it was actually Dr. Bailey

did some factoring.

I'm sorry, I don't know why I muted so anyway, just really quickly. The the future of Texas is something that we have we coined several years ago. Really Dr. Bailey deserves credit for for that and it but it really makes so much sense when you look at the state and when you look at all of our demographic changes. You look at our educational changes, you look at our health care, you look at everything that we we were charged to do in our region, and we really are setting an example for the state so it's not just a tagline it really is a rallying cry for what we what we said we were going to do and what we are trying each and every day to do.

Okay, so what why can I not? Okay, um, you know, we came out of that pandemic, and you know, some of us don't ever want to hear that again and don't want to talk about it or think about it, but it did make us stronger, right, every event in your life, you know, prepares you for the next events that are to come. And that's kind of what the pandemic did, but I think what is so amazing about our, our staff, our faculty, our entire community, is that when many students you know when many universities kind of hunkered down and decided that they were just going to survive. We said, Gosh, people need this more than ever. How do we make sure that we're thriving, how do we make sure that we're there for one another, but then how do we make sure we're there for our students so that everybody could continue to thrive? And we were very fortunate because some of our early decisions helped us stay in a Thrive mode versus survival mode. And I want to talk a little bit about those because when you talk about the future of Texas and you talk about UTRGV, we would all be really remiss to not

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really think about some of the structures we built, to make sure that we that we are sustainable that we are going to be this strong for many, many, many, many years to come.

And part of that is making sure that we don't pass on debt to our students that we discourage debt financing. We're very proud and we'll talk a little bit at the end about beat some of the recognitions we've gotten and it's nice to be recognized for things that you set out to do. And we set out to make sure that we maintained affordability that we kept our tuition and mandatory fees key to Pell grants and Texas grants, and that students could come in and be guaranteed for four years that things aren't going to change for them particularly at the undergraduate. And then something that's really unique for us is also in those of you who are in academic advising those who are in finance, those of you who aren't student successes, I mean, the list goes on and on who who worked with students to help them understand how important it is. Just invest in going full time because that last class is not only free, but it allows you to graduate sooner which allows you to get into the workplace sooner which is which surely should increase your your income and for you and your family.

We've developed the tuition Advantage program. It's the only one of its kind in Texas. Again, the future of Texas other pro other schools have programs like this but nowhere near where we have have put our mark which is the 125,000 there are other restrictions. Of course you have to be a good student you have to be qualified and all of those sorts of things, but it is a program unlike like any other and then we also have added scholarships for graduate programs. Those of you who work with graduate students know that is really rare. But we know that graduate you may not have Powell as a graduate student, but you still want to be able to continue you still need financial assistance. So how put our heads together and tried to figure out a plan for that and then the only one of its kind ever is or luminary Scholars Program which is incredible, and we're so excited to welcome yet another class, very competitive getting a lot of attention locally, but also outside the area because it truly is a one of a kind scholarship program. But all of this is tied to how do we make sure that we say relevant that we say sustainable and that we make sure that we're doing for our students what they what they need, but also its new programs, people choose universities

because they have a program that they're interested in and they want to go and so when we became UTRGV both legacies had, you know, a wide array of programs, but our charge was to expand that dramatically, particularly at the graduate level. And so look at those numbers. I mean, that's that's extraordinary. And there's nobody on this zoom or in this meeting that has not contributed in one way or another to make each of these programs possible to bring on but possible to offer into sustain.

During the pandemic talk about thriving instead of surviving. We just kept on plugging away and just kept on bringing on new programs. And it goes to show that you know, we're stronger when we pull together and and you you may have to change your format, but we sure did it and we made it happen. And then we welcomed a new students into all of these programs. And you may have seen yesterday that we added we're still pending SEC COC

approval, but we received the coordinating board's approval. That announcement went out late yesterday for a new PhD in material science and engineering. And that's huge. That is the first in that college. It is a it is in collaboration with the College of Science who has two doctoral programs, but it's again it says faculty pulling together and the staff pulling together to create a program that was really highly regarded and and flew by with flying colors who are coordinating board review which is exciting. That's what you want.

We also have programs underway trying to round out that particularly in the health area, but then others and I haven't Asterix here because we're not out of the clear it's still considered editor development until sat COC says you're good. But these are this one of course is much further along. Computer science is supposed to go to the Coordinating Board in January. And so that one is pretty close. Doctor of Physical Therapy we have our visiting team coming in the crediting team coming in fall of 24 So all of these are in the in the hopper at different stages. But most importantly, we're continuing to push through to make sure that we have these opportunities to round out our offerings for students. So when they come to us for undergrad, they have numerous pathways for where they want to do in their grad these don't come these are not insignificant investments by the university. And so this is a little bit of an this is fiscal year 23

And so we are at nearly 26 million of investment to pull these off. We have to support the students the equipment, the space, the faculty, the hiring. The staff that just there's so many things that it takes to pull off a program. So it's not as easy as just writing a proposal and getting it approved. It is a true institutional commitment. And we would be really foolish to not check all of those boxes on the front end so that we make sure that when we launch those students are going to be successful with what we've committed to giving them.

And then lastly, we offer the higher ed administration this past year for the first time and this was a cohort where students were able to participate tuition free, but we were able to align it we have of course the faculty doing the content, but then we aligned it with leadership talks on Fridays, and it worked out to be I guess, probably about one a month or so. And we had different leaders from across the institution come and really have a candid conversation about their areas of responsibility and what does that look like? And hopefully those were informative and interesting to folks to just learn sometimes you go to work and you get so involved in the the unit you work with. It's sometimes hard to see the forest for the trees. So the idea of this was to really bring some of that front and center for folks. We hope that was enjoyable. We look forward to the feedback.

And all of this you know when you think about our students, it's one thing to attract them to come to us but if they don't graduate and if they don't persist from year to year, and and this is not in one you know, we I think Dr. Charlton might be on you know shy students he says that everybody in business and every single person plays a role in a student's experience in the classroom and outside the classroom. It can be from somebody running into you in the parking lot to somebody in a building to a service centers. It doesn't matter all of us play a

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role in making sure that that student experience is one that encourages a student to want to continue and to persist and providing those those frame that framework in place. And, you know, with with Jonica and Cynthia and the incredible student success team that's aligned with all of our advisors in our enrollment folks in our Student Affairs, folks. I mean, it's and then all of the folks in the departments it's it's truly everybody's business. And look at the numbers that we're achieving. We are fast approaching. We have the legacy numbers here but then, you know, our charge was different. We're a different university, and we are really fast approaching and increasing. Everybody took a debt with a pandemic numbers but we are we've rebounded and are fast approaching national averages and that's incredible and impressive and everybody should be patting themselves on the back. We are not done. There are so much more to do on behalf of our students. But just recognizing your role in that experience is really, really important and does make a difference. Oops, on my way. We also want to invest

in all of you because we're asking you to invest in our students and we want to also invest in all of you through April 23. Since we started we've been investing in reclassifications. We've launched an entire salary plan out of human resources, led by Human Resources done the same thing on the faculty side, focused on promotions at merit. We did a minimum increase to \$13. And we've done market adjustments. So if there's lots of different compensation plans that happened, they're not all in one bucket. And that's why I wanted to list them out here. There's lots of different ways that we're trying to tackle so that we invest in the folks that have invested in us and invested in the university and that we continue to do as much as we can. We want to remain competitive and we want to make sure you know how appreciated you are.

We also invested in our students and that was a huge one anybody who after the during an after the pandemic, who drove down the street and everybody working at a fast food restaurant was making you know \$15 Or you know \$80 And and some of the just, it was just so hard to get folks to come back to work. And so we wanted to make sure students kept us as a choice in their, in their, in their idea of where they'd like to work because we know that if we can keep them on campus, they're going to go to class, they're going to be on time they're gonna they're not gonna have to worry about parking and all those other sorts of things and then they have all of you as mentors, and so that was an important increase a big one and we know that there's room to go, you know, we want to continue to remain competitive, but it was a big, it was a big leap for our students.

We also have lots of desks. Around us as we're trying to expand to to work on the commitments that we've made. Creating our pipeline of students coming from our high schools is has always been and will continue to be a top priority. And you've seen some of those in the announcement. Harlingen is up and running. We have another coming online and editor Oregon, another coming online in McAllen. And this is, you know, a big thanks to Dr. Charlton and Dr. I dopa and the entire team because there's, you know, dozens and

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dozens and dozens of folks that surround this work to make it happen, including our faculty who traveled to the to these campuses. So just really, really excited to have influence and to have opportunity to to be part of the academic journey so that when they transfer to us, then we we can continue that and they will graduate with very little if any debt at all and and definitely on time, if they follow our advisors, advice, and the degree plans and programs of study.

And we also we're expanding in our health areas in McAllen we have the academic medical campus. You've heard a lot about that the cancer, the surgery and cancer infusion facility. But we also have a research building in in Brownsville that is that is approaching completion. It's over there by Vir. By the research building health professions by opposite of the Republic of Maine. You've probably seen it hopefully. And then across the street from Maine. We have the health professions building, which should be online this fall. So those are some of the things that are happening in our in our health and medical area. And then everybody's excited about we're trying to work on housing, we're very close. We're going to be working we are working with system we have a team working on that. To go out for bid and next steps on expanding housing opportunities on both campuses. Edinburg will be first because the planning is just further along. And and but we are the plan is to do on both. We're looking for all kinds of new activities because we know what happens in the classroom is critically important. But what happens outside the classroom is also critically important. And then for our faculty, staff and students our new pool at the recreation center it's a lap pool becoming online.

So just to kind of remind everybody of the timelines you know when this graphic first came out 24 Seems really far away. 24 is not far away anymore. So it is, you know, we're practically there. And so our expanded period spirit programs, we're going to have our first year of competition for swimming and diving and our marching band is actually going to start a year early and an abbreviated fashion the interest and and excitement from the students has been unlike anything that any of us probably could have expected and so we will be up and running in the 2324 year for marching band which is really exciting. And then of course football still on top for 25 And I just want to end with some rankings many of these you have already seen and so I won't read each and every one of them. But the point of sharing the rankings is not we don't wake up to be ranked each and every day none of us do. But what matters is when you wake up each and every day to set out into achieve the goals that you've set for yourself and set for our community. And so for each other, but then somebody externally says well, you're doing a really great job in these areas, then it then it's worthy of bragging because you're being recognized for the work that you set out to do anyway. And so we said we wanted to have low student debt. We said we wanted our students to have dramatic changes in economic mobility and we said that we wanted to make sure that whether our students are Pell students or not, or whatever their performance exceeds everybody else. And here are the numbers that show where we rank and what a good job all of you and all of us are doing in that space.

Some of these other ones again, net price social mobility, best bang for your buck some of these again, just so many different outlets. These are all Washington Monthly which does a really nice job in their in their data collection and analysis. And so again, just being recognized for the things that we said that we value, and this one is is new I don't know that you've seen this and it's a little bit different and it's a really interesting and I know it's like overwhelming and you're going what in the world is it so let me just sum it up really quickly. So when there is a prediction that is published that says a public National University will be predicted to perform based on their student profile. So we were predicted at 39% but over performed and you'll notice people either over or underperform the majority underperform of what the prediction so the prediction holds fairly true for a large majority majority. We're the outlier. And we're the outlier because of who we are, and because of what we say we're going to do, and we don't just say it, we do it. And I think that's really incredible. And our Pell number of Pell students are 60% Compared to all of these other institutions and we far outperformed. So lots to be proud of again, pat yourself on the back because this doesn't happen without each of you guiding our students every step of the way.

And then our tuition and fees again back to the affordability back to really not losing sight of the students we serve and what their reality is and so we want to make sure that we stay competitive, we want to make sure we stay affordable. And so this this slide and you'll and I'll share this slide too. I think I've already shared it with you data so she can anybody who wants any of these slides I'm happy to share but it's just really impressive the number the percentage receiving need based aid and the average percentage discount for students. And when you look at the net academic costs, which is defined down here, it's derived by subtracting the total need based aid from the total academic costs of all students and then dividing by the total. And so we are I would say, outperforming dramatically in this category. And these are the things that we hold ourselves accountable to every time we think about a tuition increase.

And so that's I just want to say thank you. None of this is possible without all of us and so I just appreciate so much and you know staff senate has a commitment all of you have full time jobs and you have families that lives and all of these other things. So to say take the time to be a part of this membership and to do your work on behalf of all the other staff is greatly appreciated as well. So thank you

very much Dr. r&d You are so welcomed. Does anyone have a couple minutes? Does anyone have any questions that you may have for Dr. Ernie, like seeing the chat while we have Ms. juande cruise? She's super excited about all these things. So that's awesome, great presentation.

Um, well there we do have a question Dr. Arne, so it is from Miss Booz Allen Nice. Well, there'll be a collegiate campus in Brownsville Do you happen to know that you're muted by the way

okay, you would think after all these years that everybody would know how to unmute and I'm trying to be so respectful without background noise and so I always mute right away so I am so sorry. So we um that's a great Okay, so I'm going to let me see Will there be a Pooja can Okay, so I pulled up the chat. So right now, we have the Brownsville early college high school and that's our Collegiate campus in Brownsville. It's actually been there for many, many years and is an amazing partner. We've had a couple of luminaries from there and they are a great partner and that's the ISDS kind of collegiate campus now it is it unlike some of the others that are in other parts of the city. It is literally on campus, and those students matriculate to us at a very high rate and are very successful coming to us which is exciting. Because they they get a different experience. It's actually in some respects.

It's a great experience because they are not only with our high schools for a part of their educational experience, but they actually are on the college campus are part of their educational experience. So when you talk to some of these students, what they'll often say is, I know my way around, I love this place. I just want to continue and we think that's in large part part of the matriculation. So we're going to learn from that one with the other three to make sure that we take some of those some of those strong points that have worked so well because we have a longer history in Brownsville.

Does that answer your question? I hope

so, yes, she said yes. Okay. And then And then what's the projected timeline for the department pharmacy program? That's a really, that's a really good question. We are in the process of developing the proposal, which means that's the campus process. There's numerous reviews and approvals that have to happen after that step. I don't some of the ones that have gone through those external approvals. Were able to put a date to like I like material sciences like computer science, like PT, but on this one, I really I don't have a date for you. I'm sorry. And mostly because it's still internally being reviewed. Once we get it there. It's kind of like a domino process. So once we get it to system and once we get it to the Coordinating Board, we'll be able to predict a date not a date certain but predict a date better but right now I don't have one.

We have one more question.

Think you pretty much cleared up everything back then.

Well, terrific. Thank you so much for having me. And thank you so much for your time today. Yep. And with that in mind, Dr. Arne, I do want to share with colleagues obviously. So again, on behalf of everyone else on staff senate, of course with your assistance and your support, and along with Dr. Charlton here. So regardless of the role or what department you serve, or what division obviously you belong to you know, student success has been achieved through your contributions. And so again, Dr. Ronnie, thank you for your presentation. And fellow colleagues. Please join me in both wishing Dr. Arne long and happy retirement and letting her

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know how deeply we are, you know, appreciative of all the stuff that she has done for UTRGV but also for our legacy institution, the University of Texas Brownsville. So you'll probably see him in the chat, Dr. Arne so well, thank you and I won't I'm just so just to kind of give everybody an update. So I as you know, I was in the office of the president and then I took on the provost role kind of kept both. Dr. Cyrus has stepped in and the provost role I will still remain working with Dr. Bailey on a variety of projects for a period of time. So I'm here and available for to continue this great work. This university is my, you know, life's pride work. But I also want to say a big welcome to Dr. Zaius. He's been an amazing colleague, and we're really excited to have him on board and so so the provost side of the house and the colleges are in great shape. So thank you.

So I know Dr. Ian has been like a great advisor to staff senate so we have something coming up for you Dr. Arne, don't worry I know you don't like surprises. So Oh, something very special gift for you. Which we'll get to you later, of course, because we're in zoom. But yeah, that's for everything.

You can already see all the chats blowing up all.

Y'all thank you so much. I'm going to cry. I appreciate it. So, so much, and I appreciate all of you. So thank you so much. And we hope that you have a good rest of your day and happy weekend. Happy Friday. So thank you. Thank you. Well, I will let you go on to your business and thank you. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

So I've stopped sharing I'm so sorry, I didn't realize I was married. No worries. You're good.

Technology. Thanks. So we're trying to figure out. Thank you and thank you so much. All right, moving on. We have our committee reports. And so we'll begin with our communications committee. Our chair for this committee is Miss Melanie Garza and our culture is for RONDO Segovia.

Good morning everyone. Hope you all have had have been having a great day. I know. I'm following Dr. Arne. So I hope you still benefit from this information. But I'm so excited to see you all again. It's nice to be gathered all together. As I mentioned, I'm the committee chair for the communication committee with staff senate. We do have a few updates for you all I know we haven't updated y'all in a minute. So um, we do. There has been work happening behind the scenes for the steps in that website. We want to ensure that for the upcoming year, there's you know, updated information there one location where you can find meeting minutes and things happening with the institution. So I'll be sharing the link here. It's still a work in progress. But we're looking forward to the new team with staff senate so that we can tackle this project and keep working on it and getting it to that eight one status.

And then we also want to continue and congratulate continue congratulating all of our staff within the 2020 to 2023 year we have a lot of graduates. We were trying to showcase as many

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as we could through social media because this is amazing work that you all do aside from you know your full time job or part time job here at the institution. So if we could all just give a second and a round of applause to anybody who has graduated this year. You'll know anybody clap? Yes, yes. And if you know anyone, feel free to shout them out in the chat. Because again, continuing to work hard as then it shows in our work. So we're very happy for that.

And then the last thing is we did have a big contest this past spring for homecoming. So our amazing teams that participated for the decorating contest finally received their trophy that hopefully are being displayed in their offices. So one last applause for the Biology Department and the FYE and Career Center team and Brownsville who got a lot of votes on social media and everything. So we're very excited for y'all as interaction through those channels to help support stuff on campus, and I'll roll it over to co chair Rolando for a review of this year's work.

I everybody my name is Olivia. I'm just also happy to announce that we started a new campaign with our social media is called a wind your orange so you probably saw on our social media at the hashtag binder orange. That's our way of promoting school spirit. Especially we should take great pride in working with the university. So whenever you post an activity that you are attending at the university, or if you bought new swag or the university you can always use hashtag binder orange. We're continuing to use this campaign through the next academic year. We got good response in our social media. So please follow us on social media on our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. we'd greatly appreciate it and also share your posts on our social medias. And don't forget to use the hashtag find your orange

awesome and we'll reshare in a little bit our channels that way if you're new or haven't been able to or maybe you're new to Instagram, right, you can go ahead and give us a follow for all new updates as the this is the last half senate meeting for the academic year. I did want to thank everybody that's part of the committee that's part of Staff Senate and obviously the staff that has you know, engaged with us and showcased our campus partners so I do want to continue emphasizing you know, UTRGV spirit and and the pride that we have for our institution. So we really hope that the Finder RH campaign continues on.

And then Rolando, do you have any closing remarks?

Just please make sure that you do follow us on our social media. It was amazing how the interaction we received from all our staff members like from the Halloween contest from the homecoming activities we get really good responses and I hope this coming year that we'll continue to get even more responses of the campaign's that we promote our competitions that we promote within the campus because it just builds up a good school spirit and it takes a little time away from your eight to five duties and to promote a little bit of happiness with your school spirit and give you a little something to do. So please make sure that you follow

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us and make sure that you find out the new activities that are going to come up this coming year.

And last but not least I'd like to individually thank every committee member. So here are some photos.

I know it's very short, but I personally think oh my gosh, can you see it was

there you go. Can you see it in the background?

It's still showing out started screen sharing. So it's still it's probably still loading

Thank you, bro froze.

My apologies my zoom, quit unexpectedly.

Okay, so there's just like a little thank you

um, and so personally wanting to thank to thank Christina Rodriguez who is part of the communication Committee. She joined us a little later in the year but was really helpful with some of the campaigns we were having Mr. Harvey of Salinas as well. Very thankful for all the work that you put in Juan Soto Santos my bad one Santos who helps us a lot getting a Florida's which you can see some of our members here in the photos in case you need to put a name to the phase one and have yet Christina Kareena as well. Tell me when yours and then of course co chaired Rolando Segovia and yeah the day your help has been very much appreciated throughout this whole year so you know those things we never forget and we are very happy and looking forward to the next year. Thank you all.

Thank you. Thank you, Rhonda. Thank you. All right, for a nice day. We have the elections its constitution committee and for the chair we have Miss Monica Granado and poacher Irene Douglas.

Morning the elections and constitutions committee has been super productive this year. We been making sure we got caught up on all the elections and the staff senate constitutional amendments that were pending from previous years. I want to thank the committee and the staff senate leadership for all the hard work and guidance over the course of the year with the FY 24 election wrapping up this week we're set to start the year with a clean slate and a full staff senate. And on that note, if you haven't cast your vote yet, please take a moment to click the link in the email that went out on Monday and cast your vote for the new staff senator who will represent your division.

And that's all Thank you morning. Now our next committee is going to be the feedback committee and our chair for that is Miss Jasmine Zuniga co chair Miss Marisa caminando.

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I think you're definitely we can't hear you.

You hear me now?

Yes, yes. Okay, perfect. Sorry.

Hello, everyone. My name is Jasmine Zuniga and I'm the chair for the feedback committee. Although I don't have any updates I do. have kind of an overview of some of the inquiries that we have throughout the year for FY for year 2021 2022. We don't have a lot of for 2023. But that doesn't mean there isn't time although we are ending this year with this meeting.

The next one coming in will be the one to be providing that information to you all.

So I do want to go ahead and submit the link for you guys. So that way you guys can so that way, you can sorry. Still the morning waking up. So I will provide the link for you. And also we do have a QR code. That way it's easier. You know, on the go, y'all can go ahead and use that QR code to kind of input any information. We do want to hear from you.

Any, you know concerns, interests, things that you'd like us to explore? We want to hear all that from you guys. So hopefully we'll get to see more forms coming in for this year. Um, this being my first year it was crazy. It was overwhelming, but the committee members that I do want to acknowledge for helping us through all these submissions. I do want to thank you know, muddy so much is our co chair can be Donal Karen Dorado, who kind of provided us the log that we had that we would update every submission and those that we when we did have updates was able to provide that log for you guys.

Cordelia rasa she was a huge help also in setting up the submission form and so as again, I'll go in and set that on the link on the chat. And Nicole English, Gardena data, Alicia Quintus Melba Cantu and Nolan yellows. Yeah. So thank you all so much for helping through all this. Like I said, this was my first year so it does get pretty nerve wracking.

But thank you all so much, and I'll provide all that for you guys in the link.

Thank you, Jasmine. And last but not least we have our staff success committee chair for that as Miss moneyval Martha no chair, they don't think that'd be on. Yeah. And we'll have Veronika go ahead and present on behalf of Good morning everyone. Today I'm excited to bring some exciting updates to the stats for the staff success committee. As you know our committee has been diligently working to enhance the overall wellbeing and growth of our esteemed staff members here at UTRGV. your continuous support and dedication to this cause has been invaluable, and we're grateful for the opportunity to serve you all. Our committee is eagerly gearing up for the upcoming staff senate retreat, a pivotal event that will play a crucial role in shaping our plans for the year. Ahead. Currently, our committees in the process of finalizing the agenda for the retreat and we're working hard to ensure that it is an enriching and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

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One of the highlights of this retreat will be onboarding our newest senators who will be joining the staff senate for the upcoming year. We want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to these intelligent individuals who will undoubtedly bring new fresh perspectives and use their unique talents to their respective divisions. With their addition to the Senate. We are confident that our ability to represent the interests and concerns of UTRGV staff will be further strengthened. As Dr. Arne stated, let us remember that every staff member plays an essential role in the university success. Your dedication and commitment to excellence are the driving forces behind our champions. Thank you.

Thank you, but I go next, we'll have our public comments and questions. Does anyone have any public comments or questions in regards to today's meeting? Or announcements in general? Committee University?

I can sure.

Okay, yes, so I wanted to bring to everybody's attention. That Welcome Week is coming up in about a month. As you may know, Welcome Week is a welcome back event for students and university community and it starts the first week of each fall and spring semester and welcome week. Is an opportunity to meet and connect with fellow Buck atolls, participate in campus traditions and get excited about the new academic semester. This fall semester. Welcome week will be a two week long celebration full of different events that will start on Monday, August 28, and will go through Friday September 8. As part of Welcome Week, there will be multiple popular events including we will have UTRGV day on Wednesday, August 30. So mark the date. Save it on your calendar. Join us for a free commemorative shirt and cupcake while supplies last. Another popular event is the stump. That one is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29 and August 31.

And so that is an expo for student organizations giveaways and fun activities.

There are other events like picnic with the President and table like info DeBose and other opportunities. And so we're currently in the process of finalizing the webpage for Welcome Week. We're hoping to have that webpage ready in the next week or two.

And so that web page is www.utrgv.edu/welcome-week I'll drop it into the chat. So that you can save that web page for now. Please be on the lookout for updates on that website, as well as on social media. And we'll also be sending out email updates about Welcome Week. And then in general, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Edna Zambrano or myself and then that way we can go ahead and answer your questions about Welcome Week. And that is it. Thank you for your time. Happy Friday. Thank you, Karen. Does anyone have any more comments, announcements or even share in the chat that any events that are coming up?

Ahead Rolanda.

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Hello, and again, I just want to remind all our staff and faculty members that Annual Enrollment ends on this coming Monday on the 31st So just a friendly reminder if you want to update or change your benefits, you have to 31st to do so. If you have any questions, you can always reach HR, and they'll connect you to a benefit representative and they'll be happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

Thank you for that Rolando if you haven't done it

right anyone else?

Hi, this is Eliza Gomez with Office of Emergency Management. I just wanted to let people know to be on the lookout and save the date for September 18 through the 22nd is going to be the ready the first ever ready UTRGV week. And there's going to be events in Enberg on Monday in Brownsville on Friday, from 10am to noon and so more information will be coming. So be on the lookout for that.

Near the dates again and Miss Eliza it's the week of September 18 through the 22nd.

So it's two weeks after welcome. We

know that a lot more information is going to be coming that's in the planning stages right now.

Thank you for sharing that Eliza.

Anyone else

actually wanted to do a shadow? Um, this summer has been full of like orientation for new students for this upcoming year. So I wanted to throw a shout out to like Student Success strategic enrollment, everybody who's involved in this process to onboarding our students with Dr or any really resonated with me so like, it's a lot of work that's been put in. So just thank you to everybody and all your hard work

thank you for that Melanie.

You don't notice.

Okay, well, just to recap, like Monica seven elections, we do have the elections going on. So today's the last day, make sure that once you click on that link you have 24 hours to submit a board you only have until five o'clock today to go and submit your vote but yes, we do appreciate your voice and having our new membership coming on board. Again. This is our last rodeo together with a big colleagues that you just heard from right now. And so we'll be preparing those of you that have already been elected for the FY 323 elections. We're gonna have a retreat within the next couple of weeks but also the 20 for those that are elected to fy

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24. And so if anyone doesn't have any comments or questions, I do like to thank all of you all for your support towards staff senate. On behalf of this membership. We are honored to have served you this academic year. And also just hearing from you on just be able to collaborate with each and one of you all I know that we're busy right in our eight to five maybe more than past five o'clock. But I think your support what staff senate had been very meaningful to our team is not just only me, it's actually everyone else. We all have different you know, roles that we're playing and so I think you all as supporting us, whether it's like a showing that school spirit or even sharing that maybe suggestion or maybe your concern, you know, whatever the case is, I know that you all are part of the students success is basically because of staff success. Of course we can't forget about the faculty success component, right. But you know, you all have demonstrated, you know, the work that you all are in the positions in your alignment that you know, we wouldn't be here where we are today because of each and one of you. Ah, and so staff senate again, I will be transitioning out this is actually my last meeting. I will be serving as immediate past president so you'll be hearing soon of our new president new leadership will mean within the next few weeks. And so I look forward to supporting them. You know, moving forward, just an FYI.

I will be part of Staff Senate and supporting that area but I will be taking on another role, which you will be hearing a little bit more often as we move forward in the academic year. So I'm part of the UT System employee advisory council. So those of you that are not fully aware of that, that's basically staffs in it, but a UT system level. And so there are the UT schools and so there is a representation and you know, being on behalf of those universities and so along with that we have a Peter James Miko who's also part of that membership. And also, you know, as an alternate right now, right, we do have us our staff, Senator, Senator Nicole Dinklage, who will also be an assistant to us on that area. And so again, you'll be hearing a lot more of this as we move on forward. But y'all take care of please. And then we do have one comment heads up from bolo do not fit for parking permits will be available. August 1. So don't forget about those bargains. Also, make sure those of you that are on the Edinburg campus. You all probably have seen the polls. Yellow polls probably been already implemented on the parking lot some part of the areas. I know there's already some part of the campus just make sure that's new from parking. Paulo. I'm not to pull me out of this but you happen to have any more information regards to those polls, or if there's any other information regarding to those parking areas or spaces, or any chance

that side of all over by Pitt Street Volvo parking lots of pain and generating were installing parking guidance systems. So we could have a ready by the beginning of fall. And that's just helpful for students and staff as well. About parking

make things easier so we could barely hear you follow it's fading out

at your your ear. I can hear you but I make a mute. Can you hear me? Yes Now we can hear you clearly. Okay, so there for a moment. Yeah, they're part of our parking guidance systems. So well, we should have those up by the beginning of fall. So that's just a helpful resource for

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students just to know if parking lots are full. So those are going up in the 16 over by the Fieldhouse and e 19. Over by the tennis court, so they should be ready by that fall. That's our goal.

Yeah, heard that. That's their goal. And so obviously a committee was part of this. We didn't have one of our staff centers at the moment the Ricardo Lopez and serving that committee, who didn't take the opportunity to get some of that feedback and other colleagues as well. I'm sorry, I missed your names. But you all have been great part to this feedback for this parking area. And then we do have a comment from Peter James.

He says I have a comment. So it's your turn P day. We call me. I just want to just say thank you to this year staff senate. You all have done a great job has been easy. It was really a kind of a transition year so I definitely just want to applaud you all. And the executive board the different chairs, the leadership, the adera You've done a phenomenal job as chair of this house and it is not easy to chair the staff senate and it's really not especially with the you know the other roles that you have on campus. And so thank you so much for doing that. I want to welcome you into the past presidency.

And I'm really excited about what this is going to look like moving forward. It's great to just see everyone really working hard to advocate for the well being and the enhancement of staff on campus, of course with our students and faculty as well in mind. So thank you for all the work that you've been doing and we look forward to continued success this upcoming year.

Thank you PJ. All right. So this was a short meeting, but we want to make sure that you know you enjoy the rest of your Friday. If you don't have any other comments, questions or any concerns. Maybe we'll do peace right the way when you know the marriage, and that we're good to go but other than that, I'll pass it down to our parliamentarian. If you had any questions. Miss Kelly.

Thank you. Sorry, I know she's been having technical issues or not. I'll go ahead and open up the motion the floor for a motion. Is there any further public public comments or questions? We now move on to make the motion to adjourn. May I have a staff senator to make that motion? I move to adjourn the staff senate general meeting for the month of February. No, July. Oh July sorry.

I second that.

Alright. Have yes I can that. Is there a second? Yes. Have you heard and then is there any debate or discussion?

Debate or discussion, debate or discussion? All those in therapy state i in the Zoom chat which is the staff centers.

All oppose.

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So someone just say oppose because they don't want to end this meeting. Let's kidding. Um, Any abstentions?

All right, Kelly. You have the last word on this one. I'm not sure if your zoom is still working right now. I think it's working. Hopefully it's my background is not working. But with that for the last time. I'll call this meeting adjourned at 9:57am. Y'all have a Good Friday and a good weekend, everybody. Thank you all thank you say no, take care. Happy Friday. You too.