

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

.....
Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Teams

I. Call to Order – 9:04

Mirayda called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum – 9:04

Ricardo Lopez, Secretary

18 present

III. Welcome & Introduction – 9:06

Rolando Segovia, Staff Senate President

Rolando welcomed everyone to the staff senate general meeting for December.

IV. Guest Speakers

a. *Dustin Prins*, Assistant Dean of GME

School of School of Podiatric Medicine

Dr. Dustin Prins from the School of Podiatric Medicine provided an update on the school's activities, shared his background, and discussed various aspects of podiatry, including the scope of practice and board certifications.

i. Podiatry School Growth and Faculty: Dr. Prins highlighted the growth of the Podiatry School, the current cohort's progress, and introduced the clinical faculty members, emphasizing their diverse skills and the school's commitment to serving the community.

ii. Case Studies in Podiatry: Dr. Prins presented several case studies to illustrate the types of injuries and conditions treated in podiatry, including broken ankles, calcaneal fractures, Achilles tendon ruptures, and soft tissue injuries.

- iii. **Importance of Proper Footwear:** In response to a question from Rolando, Dr. Prins explained the importance of wearing the right type of shoes based on foot structure to prevent conditions like plantar fasciitis.
 - iv. **Podiatry and Diabetes in the Rio Grande Valley:** Veronica Gonzalez asked Dr. Prins to explain the significance of having a Podiatry School in the Rio Grande Valley, given the high prevalence of diabetes and related complications in the area. Dr. Prins emphasized the importance of increasing access to care to prevent amputations and improve quality of life.
 - v. **Limb Salvage Clinic:** Veronica Gonzalez mentioned the university's Limb Salvage Clinic, which aims to prevent amputations by providing comprehensive care to diabetic patients.
 - vi. **Collaboration with Orthopedics:** Wandy Cruz-Velazquez inquired about the collaboration between podiatrists and orthopedic doctors. Dr. Prins explained the differences in their training and scope of practice, emphasizing the importance of podiatry for foot and ankle issues.
 - vii. **Insurance and Referrals:** Rolando asked if a referral is needed to see a podiatrist. Dr. Prins clarified that UTRGV insurance holders do not need a referral, but other insurances might require one.
- b. *Jaime Vasquez*, Director of End User Computing
Infrastructure & Operations
- i. **Windows 11 Upgrade Project:** Jaime Vasquez discussed the Windows 11 upgrade project, explaining the need to upgrade from Windows 10 due to its end of life in October 2025. He provided details on the upgrade process and the options available for unsupported computers.
 - ii. **Computer Replacement Program:** Hector Perez provided an update on the computer replacement program, which aims to ensure all employees have modern computing platforms. He detailed the eligibility criteria, the types of computers being provided, and the process for requesting replacements.

- c. *Nina Barrientos*, Employee Engagement Wellness Coordinator
Office of Human Resources
 - i. **Wellness Programs and Team Excellence Award:** Nina Barrientos from Human Resources and Talent Development reminded everyone about the available wellness programs, the upcoming well-being week, and the Team Excellence Award nomination period in January.

V. Committee Reports

- a. *Jeremy San Miguel*, Communications Committee Chair
 - i. **No updates**
- b. *Yesenia Carter*, Constitutions & Elections Committee Chair
 - i. **No updates**
- c. *Omar Nedzelsky Jr.*, Business Processes & Staff Support Chair
 - i. **Brownsville Campus Grill Hours & Prices:** Miss Guerra suggested longer hours and a budget-friendly menu. The issue was forwarded to campus dining services, and a reply is pending.
 - ii. **Zone 3 Parking Refunds:** Miss Munoz proposed a refund form for Zone 3 parking due to limited availability during events and suggested using shuttles from distant lots. Parking and transportation services were contacted, and a response is awaited.
 - iii. **TRS Portal Contributions Display:** An anonymous inquiry asked if the TRS portal reflects both employee and state contributions. TRS provided a detailed response, which will be shared in the chat.
 - iv. **Campus Trail Safety:** Mr. Lozano reported slipperiness on the Bronx Trail in Edinburg during wet or humid conditions. A suggestion to add anti-slip coating was forwarded to campus facilities.
 - v. **Van Wyk Street Crosswalk Access:** Mr. Randy highlighted the lack of a direct sidewalk to the Bronx Trail from the Van Wyk Street crosswalk. A proposal for a new sidewalk was sent to campus facilities.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

.....
Staff Senate

- vi. **Student Food Pantry Access:** An anonymous submission requested allowing faculty and staff access to the student food pantry. The request was forwarded to the pantry, and a response is pending.
- vii. **Edinburg Campus Parking:** In October 2024, parking concerns were shared with transportation services. While awaiting feedback, a campus master plan detailing future growth was provided for review.

d. *Krystal Marroquin*, Staff Success Committee

- i. **No updates**

VI. Public Comments & Questions

Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila, Parliamentarian

a. Updates and Announcements:

- i. **Update Profiles:** Elisa Mares reminded everyone, especially graduating staff members, to update their profiles with current information, including email addresses. She also mentioned that events have started and wished everyone happy holidays.

VII. Adjourn – 9:58

Yesenia Carter moved to adjourn the Staff Senate general meeting for the month of December, and Omar Nedzelsky seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 by Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila.

Prepared by Ricardo Lopez