

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2025, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Teams

I. Call to Order – 9:04

Mirayda Torres-Avila, Parliamentarian

Meeting to order.

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

Ricardo Lopez, Secretary

20 present

III. Welcome & Introduction – 9:05

Rolando Segovia, Staff Senate President

Rolando welcomed everyone to the staff Senate general meeting for June. Motion to table May 2025 Minutes made by Claudia Garcia and seconded by Graciela Abrego. Motion passed with no opposition or abstention.

IV. Guest Speakers

a. *Dr. Cynthia Jones* – Director of Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAP)

Florence Nocar – Director, Title IX and Equal Opportunity

Key Points:

- i. Provided an overview of OVAP's confidential services for staff, faculty, and students, including support for domestic/dating violence, stalking, harassment, and other violence-related issues.
- ii. Clarified that OVAP is the only fully confidential resource on campus (with exceptions only for state-mandated reporting).
- iii. Highlighted the office's training initiatives, bilingual support, and collaboration with other university departments.

- iv. Shared that new QR code posters will be placed in restrooms to discreetly connect individuals with resources.
- v. Promoted the annual CAVE conference taking place September 4-5, 2025 at the SAS Building.
- vi. Explained the responsibilities of the Title IX Office in handling sexual misconduct and discrimination complaints.
- vii. Clarified the role of mandatory reporters under Texas Senate Bill 212 and emphasized that reports must be submitted directly to the Title IX Office.
- viii. Discussed reporting process, privacy vs. confidentiality, and provided guidance on how to handle disclosures compassionately.
- ix. Stressed that failure to report could result in termination and legal consequences.
- x. Encouraged faculty/staff to notify OVAP first if unsure whether something is reportable.
- xi. Q&A Topics
 - Confidentiality of reporters
 - Mandatory reporting exceptions
 - Legal ramifications of non-reporting
 - Differences between OVAP and Title IX roles
 - Public disclosures during conferences (not reportable)

b. *Joe Lopez* – Director

Diagnostic Imaging

Key Points:

- i. Introduced upcoming UT Health RGV Imaging Center at the new Cancer and Surgery Center in McAllen.
- ii. Provided overview of diagnostic services to be offered:
 - 1. MRI with AI-assisted speed and noise reduction
 - 2. CT, PET-CT, Ultrasound, Mammography, X-Ray, Bone Density, and ABUS.

- iii. Announced soft opening on August 4, 2025 (initially for Medicare and self-pay patients due to CMS certification process).
 - iv. Clarified which procedures will not be available at launch (e.g., FDG PET, breast/prostate MR biopsies).
 - v. Provided contact information for further inquiries and referrals.
- c. *Dr. Zelma Mata* – Associate Professor
College of Health Professions
- d. Shared findings from research on self-care and healthy aging.
- e. Emphasized importance of:
- i. Exercise and movement (especially to offset sedentary work)
 - ii. Balanced nutrition, hydration, and sleep
 - iii. Regular medical checkups and stress management
 - iv. Mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness
- f. Encouraged staff to take part in employee fitness programs on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.
- g. Discussed the role of family involvement and realistic planning in sustainable fitness routines.

V. Committee Reports

- a. *Cristina Rodriguez*, Communications Committee Co-Chair
- i. Encouraged members to submit presentation requests for future meetings.
 - ii. Reminded attendees to follow Staff Senate social media accounts.
- b. *Yesenia Carter*, Constitutions & Elections Committee Chair.
- i. Provided updates on the nomination and voting process.
 - ii. Clarified eligibility (minimum 6 months full-time employment).
 - iii. Addressed common issues with e-mailed nomination forms and nominee eligibility.

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- c. *Omar Nedzelsky*, Business Processes & Staff Support Committee Chair
 - i. No updates to report and will be provided in July.
- d. *Krystal Marroquin*, Staff Success Committee Chair
 - i. Announced preparations underway for onboarding new Staff Senate members after elections.

VI. Public Comments & Questions

Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila, Parliamentarian

- a. *Krystal Marroquin*
 - i. Announced upcoming Facilitator Bootcamp – a three-day presentation and facilitation skills program taking place in August. Applications will open in the coming weeks.
 - ii. promoted the Wellness Fair and facilitator training.
- b. *Rolando Segovia*
 - i. Announced the Employee Benefits & Wellness Fair on July 8-9, 2025:
 - 1. July 8: Brownsville (AM), Harlingen (PM)
 - 2. July 9: Edinburg (AM)
 - 3. Includes access to benefits providers and financial advisors.
 - ii. Encouraged staff to engage in self-care and attend HR/Wellness events.

VII. Adjourn – 10:34

Krystal Marroquin motioned to adjourn the Staff Senate general meeting for the month of June, and Omar Nedzelsky seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 by Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila.

Prepared by Ricardo Lopez