

Staff Senate General Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Teams

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Omar Nedzelsky at 9:03 AM.

2. Roll Call / Attendance

Roll call conducted by Ricardo Lopez. Senators responded “aye” verbally or in chat.

26 senators present

Quorum established.

3. Approval of October 2025 Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes – *Krystal Marroquin*

Second to approve: *Stephanie Trujillo* (additional second by Ruby Sens)

Vote: Approved (ayes in chat; no noted opposition)

4. Guest Speakers

Liza Dimas – Clery Act & Campus Security Authority (CSA) Overview

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- Provided an overview of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act).
- Shared the history of the Clery Act and its origin following the death of Jeanne Clery.
- Reviewed Clery Act requirements, including:
 - Annual Security Report (distributed annually by October 1)
 - Crime statistics reporting
 - Daily crime and fire logs
 - Timely warnings and emergency notifications
- Introduced hazing as the most recent Clery crime category added in December 2024.
- Explained the role and responsibilities of Campus Security Authorities (CSAs).
- Identified four CSA categories:
 - Campus police and police department staff
 - Individuals with security responsibilities
 - Officials designated to receive crime reports (e.g., Title IX, Student Conduct)
 - Officials with significant responsibility for student and campus activities
- Emphasized the importance of timely reporting incidents to University Police without investigation.
- Reviewed Clery-reportable crimes, including violent crimes, sexual offenses, hate crimes, and liquor, drug, and weapon violations.
- Discussed Clery geography (on-campus, public property, non-campus).

- Encouraged ongoing collaboration to ensure compliance and reduce institutional risk.

Q&A:

- Clarified how timely warnings are assessed and issued by University Police.
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Estela De La Garza – Community Engagement Resources

- Presented on UTRGV’s Carnegie Community Engagement Classification and its significance.
- Noted UTRGV earned the classification in 2020 and is among a small percentage of HSIs nationwide.
- Explained the importance of documenting community engagement for reclassification, grants, and strategic planning.
- Introduced two key tools:
 - Engagement Zone – UTRGV’s official volunteer platform
 - UTRGV and the Community Portal – partnership reporting system
- Highlighted Engagement Zone benefits:
 - Volunteer recruitment and tracking
 - Service-learning course support
 - Resume-downloadable verified volunteer hours
- Shared impact data:
 - Nearly \$1.89 million in documented economic value from volunteer engagement
- Encouraged staff, faculty, and departments to report partnerships and engagement activities.

- Announced Adopt an Angel initiative in partnership with Salvation Army.

Q&A:

- Clarified how clinical, practicum, and internship hours are tracked.
 - Confirmed staff participation in MLK Day of Service is encouraged and supported.
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5. Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Maria Perez

- Reported successful Halloween Door Decorating Contest and costume competitions.
 - Thanked participants, judges, and prize donors.
 - Announced continued website updates and upcoming Thanksgiving social media messaging.
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Constitution and Elections Committee – Yesenia Carter

- Reported ongoing updates to the Staff Senate Constitution.
 - Changes focus on Article V, Section 7 to align divisions with current institutional structure.
 - Proposed updates will require approval by a simple majority vote of standing senators.
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Business Processes and Staff Support Committee – Carlos Ayala

- Encouraged continued submission of staff suggestions and concerns.
- Provided updates on:

- Transportation scheduling concerns
 - Development of a food pantry at the Harlingen campus
 - Noted no update yet on Wellness Release Time proposal.
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Staff Success Committee – Estela De La Garza

- Committee met to begin planning Employee Appreciation Week.
 - Confirmed dates: March 2–6.
 - Coordination underway with UMC and Executive Board for logistics and budgeting.
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6. Public Comment / Open Q&A

- Announcement of Distinguished Artist Series: Mariachi Mariposas concert.
 - Reminder of Graduate Programs Webinar for UTRGV employees.
 - Athletics announcement:
 - \$5 faculty/staff tickets for women’s basketball game vs. Houston.
 - Announcement of Student Union Holiday Market on December 4 at the Edinburg campus.
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7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: *Ruby Sens*

Second: Stephanie Trujillo

Vote: Approved

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Meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM.