



**Staff Council | Texas A&M University- San Antonio | WebEx  
Thursday, September 17 at 2 p.m.**

**1. Call to order and roll call**

**Members Present:**

- President – Miriam Magdaleno (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Vice President- Jarrick Brown (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Treasurer - Cristina Dominguez (Class of 2021, EEO#1)
- Secretary - Liz Chavez (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Parliamentarian/Historian- Jessica Burnette (Class of 2022, EEO#4)
- Hugo Cantero (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Rosalinda Dietzmann (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Hoyt Garner (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Priyangana Risal (Class of 2021, EEO#1)
- Dr. Mary Kay Cooper (Class of 2022, EEO#1)
- Alyssa De La O (Class of 2022, EEO#3)
- Francy Leal (Class of 2022, EEO#3)
- Abigail Montanez (Class of 2022, EEO#3)
- Bryant Moore (Class of 2022, EEO#3)

**Members Absent**

- John De La Rosa (Class of 2021, EEO#3)
- Luann White (Class of 2022, EEO#3)

**Others in attendance:**

- John Tiemann and Leroy Alloway- VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Vanessa Torres – Enrollment Management at A&M-SA

**2. Approval of August 21, 2020 Minutes**

- i. Dr. Mary Kay Cooper and Jarrick motioned to approve the minutes.

**3. Guest Speakers**

- i. **Leroy Alloway and John Tiemann, VIA Metropolitan Transit regarding the Keep SA moving plan**
  - a) They've worked with the community to improve transit mobility to contribute to the economy and help address population growth across the SA region. More growth equals more congestion and traffic.
  - b) In 2019, they conducted a survey to understand and identify a typical VIA rider. Data showed:
    - 79 percent are employed.
    - Most riders work full time, and at least one weekend day per week.
    - Most riders use VIA about 5-7 days a week on average.
    - 58% said they did not have a motor vehicle at home.
    - 61% identified as Hispanic, 20% identified as Black/African American
  - c) While large cities like Seattle had a 90% reduction, SA lost some ridership but stabilized at 50% and transported over 60,000 trips/day. Many riders are in an essential industry and could not work remotely.
  - d) The biggest component they look at is frequency of use. In a studies done every 10 years, they gauged customer's willingness to use VIA. Data showed that most people would use VIA if it arrived within 21 minutes or less. Currently, 60% of the system operates with a 21 minute or longer wait time, which corresponds to diminished interest in use. They also started comparing how far one can go within 45 minutes during rush hour in VIA or car and realized that the range of travel is limited in certain areas such as the east side (compared to the medical center).
  - e) Keep SA moving plan is designed to be frequent, direct, simple and convenient. This plan is designed to:



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- Improve frequency from the current system of 63% of service running 30 minutes or longer to 56% of service at 20 minutes or better. They anticipate 42% more San Antonians will have increased bus service that runs every 15 minutes or better during peak hours.
  - Expand mobility options and create a more responsive style of transit. Last year they launched VIA link in Northeast SA. It is an on demand service, like uber or lyft running at VIA prices. Under the KSAMP Design, will increase from 17 to up to 300 square miles of mobility on demand.
  - Invest in capital and technology to improve frequency. They have updated navigation, integrated planning and payment options, expanded real time information and communication systems, and prepare for faster trips, more day coverage and shorter travel times.
- f) Funding and ballot: Since 1977, they have operated at a half cent of sale tax whereas Houston and Dallas operate at a penny. They are proposing on the ballot a 1/8 cent local transportation district sales and use tax increase starting January 2026, which translates to about 40 million dollars a year in revenue. They plan to use some of this towards community programs and improving their services.
- Other items on the ballot include: the Pre-K for SA renewal, as well as authorizing a workforce and education program.
- g) Can vote on this until October 5.
- Early voting starts October 13 ends October 30.
  - Election day is November 3.
  - Check out [bexar.org/elections](http://bexar.org/elections).
- h) He explained that the 15 minute projection and fixed bus route service does not include VIATrans, but confirmed that all their services, including Mobility on Demand, are ADA accessible.
- i) App: The VIA Link program (currently offered in the NE side) runs off an app, a website portal, or phone call center. When make reservations to travel on the NE side, can do so 30 minutes before you want to leave. It will ask if a bicycle, mobility aid, or a car seat, etc. will be used to dispatch the proper vehicle.
- j) They are happy to present to any other campus community members who are interested in learning more. Email at [gcr@viainfo.net](mailto:gcr@viainfo.net) if needed and look up [keepsamoving.com](http://keepsamoving.com) for more information.
- ii. **Guest Speaker, Vanessa Torres, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management.**
- a) Press conference announcement scheduled on Tuesday, September 22 at East Central High School.
- New Jaguar Excellence Guarantee program tagline: “125\$ million reasons plus you.” Its mission is to make higher education a reality despite financial background, to create a unique and personalized plans for students to use maximum aid and resources, and to provide access and a pathway for diverse, talented and dedicated students to attain a degree.
- b) Statistics: 73% of our students pay 0\$ for tuition due to high need. 98% of students who filed FASFA received financial aid via grants, public or private loans, and/or 2.5 million awarded in scholarships.
- c) Key messages:
- We provide students a valuable experience in all areas including student services.
  - They have awarded \$125,000,000 in scholarships and financial assistance in a little over a decade to recruit high achieving and high needs students.
  - Opportunities are available to earn a top quality education with little to no debt.
- d) Achiever promise
- You may have heard about other promise programs which focus on students or their family’s income level and what they can afford. A&M-SA’s Achiever Promise program is different. Its focus is to provide free or low cost tuition for students who are high achieving.
  - Eligibility: Graduating high school seniors in the top 10% (not limited to Texas residents) and ECHS high school seniors who have completed 30 units (Texas residents only.) This program does not apply to international students.
  - Covers tuition but does not include other fees and dining plans however other scholarships can be used for that. Students who are eligible for GTF program can apply.



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- The campaign timeline launches on Tuesday. The recruitment phase start with communication efforts and more will happen through the holidays as it carries over into January or February. They hope to put all the offers out by February before the confirmation phase begins. There is a celebration phase to recognize recipients.
  - Will use integrated marketing tactics with MARCOM and advancement, to share internally and externally. Press release, digital billboards, and working with community partners to promote.
- e) Transfer students and international students will benefit from other aid and programs.
- Working on a new transfer honor scholarship for those enrolled in an honors program at community college.
- f) Let Vanessa or VP Brandy McLelland know if you have questions.

4. Committee Reports

- i. **All Staff Meeting (Hoyt, Jarrick, Priyangana, Dr. Cooper)**
  - a) The next virtual all staff meeting is in November.
  - b) The committee meets soon to plan and will update us via email.
  - c) VP Funk-Baxter and Martha said that Chief Davidson from UPD wants to be on the speaker list.
- ii. **Social & Community Service (John, Cristina, Rosalinda, Jarrick, Liz)**
  - a) Meeting on the calendar on September 23 at 10 a.m. Will send updates via email.
  - b) Committee has met with Abigail about Thanksgiving activity ideas.
- iii. **Appreciation/Recognition (Priyangana, Cristina, Liz, Rosalinda, Bryant)**
  - a) Employee Spotlight Awards request for nominations was sent out via email this morning.
- iv. **Communications/Marketing (Miriam, Hugo, Liz, Francy, Abigail, Luann)-**
  - a) Hugo has been updating the website and the minutes.
  - b) Social Media Engagement for August 2020 – today

Platform	# of posts	# of likes	# of followers	Comments
Facebook	74 total 21 new	103 total 16 new	56 total 6 new	According to Facebook analytics, reached 285 people through combined posts between these dates. On average we engage 13 people a day.
Instagram	66 total 21 new	467 total 59 new	129 total 28 new	The Tik tok video had about 231 views and 46 likes.

5. Special Committee Reports – Updates

- i. **Business Continuity Task Force (Jarrick)-** Committee is finished.
- ii. **Parking and Transportation (Hugo) –**Stay tuned to your staff email for any updates.
- iii. **Master Plan Committee (Hugo) –** Committee is finished.
- iv. **2020 Census Working Group (Hugo) –** Deadline to complete the census is the end of this month.
- v. **Bookstore Advisory Board (Hoyt) –** There were 2 bookstore committees. Dr. Cooper is on the other one. They have been hashing out the JDO program efficacy and concerns.

6. New Business

- i. **HR Update (Francy Leal)- Check your E-Blast**
  - a) Friday is the last day to submit nominations for the staff awards. Please read the category qualifications.
  - b) Last round of flu shots on September 24 from 2-4 p.m. HR had a great turnout on the 10th. Walgreens will bring injections for populations 65 years and older on the 24<sup>th</sup> in Vista.
  - c) Suicide prevention training: “Start a Conversation, Asking about Mental Health Saves Lives” is on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Check your e-blast to RSVP.
  - d) HR paired up with the Mays, Rec Sports, and FYE for the “Race to Vote 5K.” Check your e-blast.
  - e) Sign up for Jaguar Fall Walkers: “Stepping for a Better Tomorrow.” It has some features of the 8week walking challenge such as prizes like the apple watch, beats headphones, and more. Walk three times during own time or participate in live chats on Thursdays from 12:30 – 1 p.m.



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- ii. Jessica will represent Staff Council on the employee service awards committee to review nominations.

### 7. New Suggestion Topic Items

- i. Service Awards (Rebekah Delgado, 8/18)
- ii. Open Letter from Faculty Senate (Anonymous on 8/18)
- iii. Using Preferred Names in Banner (Amanda Trybula, on 9/3)
- iv. Jaguar Day One (Anonymous on 9/4)

### 8. Follow-Up on Suggestion Topic Items

- i. Salary Review (Anonymous, 6/26)
- ii. Concerns with UPD on campus (Anonymous, 6/26)
- iii. Staff Survey: COVID-19 concerns – The executive committee has collaborated on a rough draft that was sent out. Please review and send feedback as soon as possible. Dr. Matson wants to know what they are not aware of or issues staff are facing during these times.

### 9. Requests from President Matson

- i. Please share Ideas for staff recognition (5 & 10 year service awards)
- ii. Campus Art and Grounds Aesthetics committee (email sent on 9/4) calling for staff to serve on this.

### 10. Other issues/concerns

- i. Dr. May Kay Cooper: The virtual commencement is on Friday, September 25. Through the 21st through 24, graduates can enter the slip lanes in parking lot 2 to receive a diploma cover and car decal. Volunteers are needed to take a shift. The shifts are rotated to allow them to arrange their lives for pick up around schoolwork, childcare, etc. Students may request for this to be mailed to them. Let Dr. Cooper know if you can volunteer.
- ii. Red staff council shirts are in on Monday. Miriam is on campus on Mondays and Tuesdays for shirt pickup.

### 11. Adjourn

- i. Next Meeting: Thursday October 15th / 2:00pm