Welcome and Introductions
- The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.
- Minutes from February 22, 2017 were approved.

Administrative Report by Jerry Strawser
- The Legislative Session is ongoing, and there continue to be changes related to funding for higher education. At this point, TAMU’s budget outlook is still unknown.
- A state-wide hiring freeze is in effect through the end of August. This applies to positions that are state-funded, other than those related to public safety. TAMU submitted a request for exemption of 19 positions, and 16 of those were approved. The university will continue to fill critical positions but will use other funding sources.
- The application period for the Dependent Children Scholarship Program is now open. This program provides financial assistance to dependent children of employees within the division who will be attending Texas A&M University in Fall 2017. More information can be found at [http://vpfascholarships.tamu.edu](http://vpfascholarships.tamu.edu). Contact Karen Bigley ([bigleyk@tamu.edu](mailto:bigleyk@tamu.edu)) with questions.
  - Members of the Employee Advisory Committee are invited to serve on the scholarship selection committee. Contact Karen Bigley for details.

University Staff Council Report by Renée O’Banion
- USC elections are upcoming. Of the four representatives for the Division of Finance and Administration, there will be 1 position up for election. Be watching for more information on the nomination process.

Benefits Report by Sarah Tobola
- Sarah Tobola was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following items for consideration.
- Reminder that the special enrollment period for the Long Term Care program is ending on April 19, 2017. Several webinars are available to provide more information to employees and their family members, and there is an in-person information session on April 11, 2017. Visit [http://employees.tamu.edu/benefits/perks/](http://employees.tamu.edu/benefits/perks/) for more information.
- Friday, March 31, is the last day to submit nominations for The Texas A&M University System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (SEBAC) representative for our campus. A SEBAC nomination form is available at [http://employees.tamu.edu/benefits/sebac/sebac-election/](http://employees.tamu.edu/benefits/sebac/sebac-election/) along with information about the representative’s duties and the election process.
- Human Resources is continuing to review proposed legislation for impact to the university and our employees. There is a proposed bill to change the retirement program from a defined benefit plan (Teacher Retirement System – TRS) to a defined contribution plan (similar to the Optional Retirement Program – ORP). Note that this proposed change would only affect new State employees. HR continues to monitor the status of this bill.
- Save the date for annual enrollment meetings, which will be held on July 20 and 21. More information will be forthcoming.
- Employees and their enrolled spouses on the A&M Care Health Plan are reminded to have an annual physical by the target deadline of June 30, 2017 in order to qualify for the lower premium level for FY18. You can check your current status on MyEvive at [https://myevive.com/tamus-login](https://myevive.com/tamus-login). Catapult onsite screening has been scheduled for dates in April and May.
- **Old Business** - none

- **New Business**
  - Elections for EAC representative will be conducted soon. Be watching for more information.

- **Closing Discussion**
  - Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.
  - Next meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. in GSC 101B.

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**Meeting Attendees:** Bill Cox (FDA), Adam Chavarria (EHS), Monica Hartman (EHS), Eric Irwin (TS), Cynthia Ishaq (TS), Brent Kelm (TS), Carletta McClenton (FMO), Nikwai Noble (UPD), Susan Phillips (SBS), Ashley Skow (Ex-Officio Office of VPFA), Karen Bigley (Ex-Officio Office of VPFA), Renee O’Banion (Ex-Officio University Staff Council), Jerry Strawser (Ex-Officio Office of VPFA), Jane Schneider (Ex-Officio Office of VPFA).

**Members Absent:** Keith Bornmann (UES), Joe Garcia (UES), Antonio Sarate (SRPL), Michael Vance (UES).