



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - SAN ANTONIO  
Staff Council

June 2022 Suggestion Box Items

1. Space reservations (Anonymous on 6/10/22): Why aren't on campus entities given priority for space reservation? On more than one occasion a space has been reserved by outside entities months in advance preventing student orgs and on campus departments from reserving space. Who/what is the priority money or students?
  - a. Janae Johnson response at 8/10/22 All Staff Meeting – working on priority order
2. Tuition benefit (Sarah Gonyea on 6/21/22): I am a fully-remote employee, living out of state. I had planned to apply for the fully-online MBA program, and was originally told there would be a flat cost for the program, and out of state tuition would be waived. I have since been told that that is not the case, and I would be charged out of state tuition. Faculty members would not be charged out of state tuition, but as a staff member, I will be. This feels very unfair. The cost of the program for out of state tuition is financially out of reach for me. I feel I am not able to use this employee benefit of getting tuition assistance, because I cannot afford the out of state tuition and fees. It is very disappointing and I do not feel supported by the University to pursue a Master's degree, furthering my career and personal and professional growth. This is instead a barrier preventing me from expanding on my potential. With more employees becoming fully-remote, I do believe I will not be the last person put in this position. To me, this is a real issue that I think should be addressed. I would appreciate being able to talk about this to a further extent with whomever has further say on this matter. Thank you for your time.
  - a. Response to Sarah 6/29/22: Yes, the residency rule exception does apply only to faculty (although just to clarify we don't have out-of-state faculty currently). This allows for a faculty member moving to teach here to have residency waived their first year. You are also correct that there isn't a current exception for staff. However, in your case, I wonder that if there was an exception it would apply to out-of-state staff or just *relocating* staff. It sounds like residency isn't something we as a campus can solely address since there are state and system rules as well. However, Cabinet will take this up for discussion. I hope this response will suffice for the time being.
3. Discounted or Free Health Services (Briana Rodriguez on 6/27/22): We currently do not have an on-campus clinic like many of our system schools. The health services could possibly be included in tuition and fees. I had the idea of possibly seeing if there was an opportunity, we could use a location at the university health system campus as an on-campus clinic for TAMUSA students.
  - a. Kathy Funk-Baxter response 7/16/22: We currently do not have a board-approved fee to cover these services for students in our tuition and fee charges where many other higher education institutions are currently charging a fee to provide the

services. Information on all the requirements in order to charge the fee can be found in the education code (Sec. 54.507. GROUP HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES FEES; TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM) also there is a requirement for a student referendum to approve this fee before it can be charged. Therefore students would need to initiate their desire to have this designated fee charged and at a time when the Board of Regents accepts requests for new or increased tuition and fees, currently they are not accepting requests for this coming academic year or for next academic year. SSE assists students find services that are in the community since we don't have anything on campus and our new program with VIA under U-Pass provides free transportation for any of their routes as well which can assist everyone to get to those services in the community.