

Faculty Senate Meeting

Jan 17, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m.

UC Bayview 320

1. Meeting was called to order @ 2:05 pm

Attendance: see table

Senator	May 10	Aug 23	Sept 20	Oct 11	Nov. 8	Dec 6	Jan 17			
Jennifer Anderson (Library)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x			
Jeanne Birdwell (COEHD)	X	x	x	x	0	x/z	x			
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Isla Schuchs Carr (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Tianxing Chu (COE)	0	x	x	x	0	x/z	x			
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x			
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Yu-Shan Huang (COB)	0	x	x	x/Z	0	x/z	x/z			
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	X	0	x	x	x	x	x			
Taoran Ji (COE)	X	x	x	x/Z	x	x/z	x			
Timothy Johnson (CLA)	X	x	x	0	x	x	x			
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	X	x	x	x	x	x	0 resigned			
Zhaorui Li (COE)	0	x	x	x	0	x/z	x			
Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	0	x	0	0	x	xx	x			
Cherie McCullough (COS)	X	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Judy Metcalf (COS)	X	0	x	x	0	x	x			

Valeriu Murgulet (COS)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Thomas Oldham (SAMC)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Felix Omoruyi (CONHS)	X	x	x	x	x	0	x			
Dale Pattison (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Miguel Perez (CONHS)	X	0	x	x	x	x	x			
Robin Pizzitola (COEHD)	X	x	x	x/Z	z	x/z	x			
Lori Podolsky (Library)	X	x	x	x	x	x	0			
Ed Proffitt (COS)	x	0	0	0	0	0	x/z			
Ric Ricard (COEHD)	X	x	x	x/Z	x	x	x			
Leigh Shaver (CONHS)	X	x	0	x	x/z	x	x			
Brian Shelton (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	0	x			
Matthew Starliper (COB)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Rabih Zeidan (COB)	x	x	x	x/Z	0	x/z	x			

Other: Cate Rudowsky (provost), Kevin Houlihan, Susan Wolf Murphy, Kelly Bezio & Ariel Kelly (AAUP), Ben Soto, Deborah Sibila (Ombuds), Michelle Hollenbaugh (Past speaker)

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Metcalf second by Senator Anderson
  - a. Approved unanimously
3. Approval of December minutes
  - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Anderson, Second by Senator Zeidan
  - b. Approved unanimously with edits/corrections
4. Speakers Report: Speaker Schuchs Carr

**Speakers Report for Faculty Senate Meeting 01/17/2025**

The Fall 2024 Faculty Senate Newsletter is in the Teams folder and can be distributed after the meeting. A few questions have come up the past several weeks about sharing meeting minutes or procedures from our meeting minutes. This is fine—unless it is specifically stated not to share it yet (perhaps a provisional internal report on Faculty Satisfaction Survey results for example), In these instances, please explain that it is an unofficial draft until it is approved by Faculty Senate, or the other bodies involved. The more eyes on these procedures the better in my opinion.

College of Business (COB) Faculty Senator Ahmed Kamara is now serving as the chair of his department, and so it was necessary for him to resign his senate seat. I am working with the COB Senators, per our Bylaws, to get a temporary replacement in place until our regularly scheduled elections later this Spring. COB Senator Matt Starliper has replaced him as COB representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Senator Sandy Huang has stepped up as the college point of contact for sending out reports and newsletters to the College of Business.

In December we were notified that Faculty Senate Ex Officio Member Associate VP for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer David Ramcharan has retired, and Ben Soto will be joining us as on senate while he serves in this interim appointment. I have updated Ben on our ongoing questions/updates on the Canvas grade situation we were having with David.

In the president's address on Wednesday, you may have noticed that Cassondra Casanova, (MBA, PHR) was announced as Acting Chief Human Resources Officer, and I can confirm that this is a replacement for former Chief Human Resources Officer Jacquelyn Flowers.

Clarification on TikTok/prohibited technology and Duo: Yes, as the president said, we can use Duo, even if you have any of the listed prohibited tech on your device, but that is the only exception regarding university/system. In Staff Council yesterday, John LaRue (Vice President for Institutional Excellence and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer) answered some questions about what counted as "university business". For example, can you call your supervisor to let them know you are late from a personal device if you also have TikTok on that device. There has not been that level of clarity, but I personally have just deleted TikTok and reinstalled it when I want to use it. They are also working on a list of "sensitive locations". In my conversations with other TAMU-ASF faculty senate speakers, at least West Texas A&M University already has this list in place—mostly around sensitive tech and laboratories.

Student Retention Taskforce Update: There is a delay in the Student Retention Taskforce recommendations due to the chair (Frank Spaniol) being called out of town. We met in December, then again on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and were originally anticipating delivering our recommendations today, but we are still anticipating having these recommendations finalized and reported to the president and provost sometime next week.

Dean Search Committees: Both of the College of Science and College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) dean searches are still in the recruitment stages. Both search committees have meeting scheduled within the next month. COS-01/28/2025; COEHD-02/04/2025. My next meeting with President Miller is January 29<sup>th</sup>, and I am waiting on the schedule for Spring semester meetings with Provost Rudowsky. Deputy Speaker Scott Johnson and I are planning to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting in Austin toward the end of February (February 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>).

John LaRue report on accessible parking situation – report is based on treating each parking lot as stand alone entity, we are down 1 accessible spot per regulations (in front of Faculty Center), they will address this. When parking lot is removed, the accessible spots do not have to be replaced in other lots. Speaker will keep addressing this.

Lany issues with textbooks – informtion should be sent to the Deans

5. Committee Reports
  - a. Academic Affairs – Senator Pizzitola
    - i. Meet Monday, Jan 27 – about 26 revisions to look at
    - ii. Report accepted

- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Oldham
  - i. Faculty Excellence Awards – finalists notified Dec 14, deadline Feb 14 for final applications
  - ii. Will follow bylaws to replace Senator
  - iii. Report accepted
- c. Budget Analysis – Senator Perez
  - i. UBA meeting with Prov Rudowsky & Andrew Roberts in Feb
  - ii. Report accepted
- d. Committee on Committees – Senators Pattison/Ricard
  - i. The Faculty Satisfaction survey closed, 180 surveys completed (41%), committee planning to have report ready by Feb
  - ii. Met with COC, looking at University Councils review
  - iii. Report accepted
- e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Hadimlioglu  
We are introducing new procedures in the Senate meeting on 1/17/2025:
  - 11.99.99.c0.05 Certification of degrees
  - 12.07.99.c0.01 Fixed Term faculty members
  - 33.99.03.c0.02 Reviews of Academic administration
  - 33.99.08.c0.01 Student employment
  - 33.99.08.c0.02 Graduate Assistants

These are placed in the General Senate Teams folder for the Jan 17 meeting under the subfolder “Rule to Introduce.”

The Faculty Affairs Committee completed the review of the following rules and procedures:

- **15.05.04.C1, High-Risk Global Engagements and International Collaborations**
  - Edits made to align with the updated system regulation
  - Key edits
  - Added prohibitions for malign foreign talent recruitment & Confucius institutes (sec 1.2)
  - Details about System review of proposals (sec 3.6-3.8 and sec 4)
  - Added reporting (sec 5)
  - Added appeal process (sec 6)
- Added internal monitoring/non-compliance process (sec 7)

This concludes my report, and I would now like to call for a vote to approve the procedure (High Risk Global Engagements) presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Report accepted.

*Report given and certified by Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Alihan Hadimlioglu*

Faculty Affairs Committee Members:

*Alihan Hadimlioglu (College of Engineering and Computer Science, Chair), Susan DeGhize (School of Arts, Media, & Communication), Zhaorui Li (College of Engineering and Computer Science), Mara Barbosa (College of Liberal Arts), Jennifer Anderson (Mary and Jeff Bell Library), Sandy Huang (College of Business), Cathy Harrel (College of Nursing and Health Science), Ric Ricard (College of Education and Human Development), Judy Metcalf (College of Science)*

- a. CPIRA
    - a. There was a discussion about whether TAMUCC is overcomplying with the new Executive Order GA-48, particularly the part requiring the reporting of personal travel, including who you meet, whom you talk to, why you're there, and the sanitization of personal devices. There are many questions about travel, but unfortunately, there are no clear answers to those questions. \* Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation regarding the implementation of SB 17 relating to DEI on Thursday, January 23 via Zoom. Here's the [registration link](#)
  - b. Graduate Council
    - a. Procedure for faculty to grad council will be changing to eliminate redundancy
    - b. Will be handbook for grad education – draft will go to grad council for input
  - c. AAUP (Kelly Bezio)
    - a. Focused on 2025 legislative session – handout with links to keep track of what is happening, can also check website to get links, and summary of priorities for higher ed
    - b. AAUP is resource for faculty
  - d. Expressive Activities Committee (Jennifer Anderson)
    - a. No report, have not met yet
  - e. University Committee on Committees
    - a. No report
  - f. Staff Council Liaison Report
    - No update
7. Ex Officio Reports
- a. Provost Cate Rudowsky
    - a. At Presidents Welcome Back meeting – recognize Carlos Huerta Regents Professor; 2 faculty fellows – study Abroad (Val Murgulet) & CFE Gina
    - b. CIP codes officially in Interfolio
    - c. Pres Miller - faculty equity plan being updated – internal equity adjustments for PTR coming
    - d. Mandate from system for regional schools to look at low producing minors and certificates, set standards and process for these by Jan 31, list of these low producing minors and certificates by May 1. Taskforce formed – Send feedback to Speaker or Provost by Jan 22
    - e. Annual scheduling plan concerns discussed – goal is for students to understand what is being offered
  - b. Ombuds Deborah Sibia (ombuds)
    - a. Presenting 2024 annual report: previous year 43 contacts with 19 faculty, 2024 had 88 contacts involving 39 faculty; average 7-8 visits /month; many involved with first line supervisors. Looking at training for first line supervisors; other issues involved tenure or career progression
      - a. Contacts = f2f meeting, email, phone call; does not include any research time
    - b. Had individual and group meetings, facilitated meetings with supervisors/deans and provided policy information
    - c. Colleges mostly involved CONHS, COB, COEHD, COS, then odds & ends
    - d. Have had 3 visits this year, prior to classes starting
    - e. Attended ombuds basic training last semester and will attend a 3-day mediation course this semester
    - f. Have last 2 reports, but others have not been found; will use teams folders to archive moving forward

- c. Staff Council – Ben Soto
  - a. Spring break in the day – used to be during spring break, attendance difficult during this time; this year will revolve around Homecoming (last week in Feb), may be in Dugan with games, food, etc.
  - b. Izzfest coming @ Concrete, free for students
- d. Interim Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
  - a. No Looking at projects that have been in limbo to move them forward -grade sync, photos in Canvas, Banner upgrade
  - b. Grade sync - hope to be completed by midterm grades, CONHS, COS volunteered to help test
  - c. Banner upgrade in process, hope to complete spring and do testing
  - d. Please reach out if you know of a project that has stalled
  - e. There is an elevation process, students often take initial calls, who then bump up issues – can always ask to have something elevated if there is urgency
  - f. Discussion regarding getting faculty access to Canvas and merging courses.
  - g. Banner must be correct
  - h. Best way to get to Ben is via Teams
- 8. Old Business
  - a. Calendar issues, the final exam schedule had some conflicts and there was short turn around for last final and when grades due. Provost will discuss with registrar the possibility of Tuesday at ten or noon deadline
  - b. Canvas “What if” app lets students change previous grades, then some students present screen shot to faculty questioning accuracy of grades. Working with Canvas to either eliminate this feature or label it as “What if”
  - c. Bookstore issues? Some faculty having issues orders. Follet is closing stores across country, which might be issue. Send issues to the Deans
- 9. New Business
  - a. Break in the Day invite from Staff council
  - b. No updates
- 10. For the good of the order
  - a. none
- 11. Motion to adjourn Senator Oldham, second by Senator Harrel, all approve
  - a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:45

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate