

Faculty Senate Meeting

August 23, 2024

ECDC 210

1. Meeting was called to order @ 2:08 pm

Attendance: see table

Senator	May 10	Aug 23								
Jennifer Anderson (Library)	X	x								
Jeanne Birdwell (COEHD)	X	x								
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	X	x								
Isla Schuchs Carr (CLA)	X	x								
Tianxing Chu (COE)	0	x								
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	X	x								
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	X	x								
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	X	x								
Yu-Shan Huang (COB)	0	x								
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	X	0								
Taoran Ji (COE)	X	x								
Timothy Johnson (CLA)	X	x								
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	X	x								
Zhaorui Li (COE)	0	x								
Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	0	x								
Cherie McCullough (COS)	X	0								
Judy Metcalf (COS)	X	0								

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

Other: Kevin Houlihan, Catherine Rudowsky, Dr Sibila (Ombuds), Kelly Bezio & Allie Kelly (AAUP), Susan Wolff Murphy, Michelle Hollenbaugh, Alexandra Janney, Missy Chapa, David Ramchadan

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Anderson second by Senator Li
 - a. Approved unanimously

3. Guests

Interim Provost Cate Rudowsky

- Graduate Education & College of Grad studies Changes
- Goal past few years to improve efficiency and reduce redundancies, places where redundancies exist
- Put some operations online
- All positions retained, or moved to other places
- Grad Education rebranded as Grad Excellence, Karen McCaleb continues to be involved
- Trying to get colleges more involved, grad students strongly identify with their discipline
- Grad Council will remain
- Question regarding communication to faculty – will send out information to faculty hopefully next week
- Question regarding fears accreditation and fears regarding logistics – would be helpful to communicate how this is being addressed

Associate Provost Susan Wolff Murphy – Associate Provost & Prof of English

- Acadeum -course sharing platform, have been working with them about a year, TAMU initiative, helps students stay on track for degree if they need course to stay on track and we are not offering it; all courses would be approved by college/chair/faculty; 66 TAMU-CC courses, 31 consortia students enrolled in TAMU-CC, 4 TAMU-CC enrolled elsewhere; all courses online & asynchronous; TAMU-CC gets SCH count
- CFE – Kelly Smith returned to faculty; will be hiring new coordinator and developing new professional development, more information to come
- Study Abroad - now under this office; working to expand faculty led & provider led; Oct 1 deadline for summer fall 2025
- Faculty Fellows for CFE & Study Abroad, applications soon, start in spring; 1-1 reassign
- Expanded dual credit partnerships and offerings
- AI Team – looking at how campus responds to AI and how campus life affected, college reps serving; will do some brown bags & workshops to increase engagement

Registrar/Compliance Officer Missy Chapa and Alexandra Janney for DLAI Director Denise Robledo

- Clinic courses in Canvas /Lab courses in Canvas - no directive from Registrar or DLAI regarding course access; if there is a legitimate reason to access that information, one can request it; can connect with College to help to solve this problem; discussion regarding how faculty are added to courses; C. Rudowdsky discussed that admin used the change to Canvas to rebalance and ask for legitimate reasons for course access; if need access to previous faculty's materials request from Dept Chair; also encouraged faculty to use quick help

4. Approval of May minutes

- a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Zeidan, Second by Senator Omoruyi
- b. Approved unanimously

5. Speakers Report: Speaker Schuchs Carr/Deputy Speaker Johnson

- Our Faculty Senate Graduate Assistant Aren Karasick's last day is the end of this month, and starting in September, that role will be filled on a part-time basis by Shay Lee, who is currently a College of Graduate Studies (COGS) Administrative Associate. As part of the restructuring of COGS, she will be moved to a new role where she will support PAIRS (50%), Faculty Senate (25%), and Staff Council (25%). Associate Vice President of PAIRS Erin Mulligan-Nguyen has scheduled a meeting with Shay, me (Isla) and Staff Council President Trennon Cavanaugh to discuss the specifics of this arrangement. Shay will be joining us at the September meeting and will be assisting in moderating remote attendance for the senate meetings. Once she moves into her new role, I will be meeting with her to get those meeting links created and updated on the calendar.
- The Provost Search Committee is actively at work. I am representing Senate and the College of Liberal Arts on this search committee. The full list of search committee members was announced over the summer in a Campus Announcement (dated July 2nd), and the list of committee members is located in the meeting Teams folder. Committee members are not permitted to discuss the search much beyond that the goal is to bring candidates to campus soon. There will be official announcements letting faculty members know more information as to the final candidates' campus visits as well as the opportunities to interact with these finalists as part of the search process.

- Employee Development & Compliance Services is pleased to present professional development week November 12-14, 2024. The event (formerly known as CLIMB) will be titled EPIC (Ethics | Professionalism | Innovation | Compliance). We are seeking presentations on topics related to each of the EPIC categories—Ethics, Professionalism, Innovation, and Compliance, as well as other areas of interest to the campus community, including wellness and research. There is a PDF with information including the link to the application form in the meeting folder. Please share this with your college colleagues. The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 13, 2024. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me—I am one of the contacts for the Faculty Senate/CFE/DLAI track.
- I have been told by President Miller that she has initiated a campus-wide workload review. Apparently, some faculty in some colleges are getting fewer course releases for the same service work as a faculty member in other colleges. I am aware of faculty who have received requests to account for their time for roles such as undergraduate program coordinators. I am not aware of any actual changes to workload based on these requests, but there may be changes coming. The president suggested that some faculty may be offered a stipend instead of a course release for some smaller time commitments.
- CUPA continues to be a topic of conversation in my meetings with Interim Provost Cate Rudowsky. While I have access to the database, it is not as useful as it sounds if you do not know exactly what comparisons are being used. There is not just one list. On the earlier report that was shared at the end of Spring 2024, there was missing data for several of us on campus (my CIP included). She is working to put together a presentation for Senate that better explains how CUPA data is used, but your deans should already have some knowledge of how this works. If you are concerned that your CIP code is wrong or there was some other error in calculating your category, please reach out to your dean and request a meeting about this. I know that CIP codes are supposed to be in Interfolio, but I have yet to find mine there. Your dean's office should have them and am working to find out where in Interfolio we should see this information. None of this yet leads to solutions for fixed-term faculty members, but President Miller affirmed that it is on her agenda when I brought it up again last month.
- I have two major goals for Senate this academic year: to strengthen shared governance on our campus and to work towards improving communication.
- Over the summer, I continued to work with both the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) and the Texas A&M University System Association of Faculty Senates (TAMUS AFS) on shared governance. TAMUS Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs James Hallmark has asked the TAMU AFS to draft a procedure on shared governance. Faculty within the UT system have shared their white paper on shared governance. In comparing senate body functions at other system schools as well as other public universities in our state, our senate body does not have any real oversight of the budget and we do not have a faculty liaison on the President's Council. This committee plans to have a draft to present at the Fall TCFS meeting in September, and then my goal is to bring that document to the TAMU-CC Senate to discuss ways we might adopt some of the practices identified to strengthen shared governance on our campus.
- As part of this process, I would also like to review and consider updating the Senate bylaws and Constitution. Both are located under "Senate Documents" on the Faculty Senate Website. Staff Council and Graduate Council recently went through and updated their bylaws. We need to consider making the transition from one academic senate year to another clearer and defining the

start and end of a senate term, which will also help reduce the ambiguity about eligibility for those Senators voted in to replace vacant seats. Formally, this responsibility falls to the Awards/Bylaws/Election Committee, however, changes can be proposed to the committee by other Senate committees or by individual Senators. I encourage each committee to review the section in the Bylaws that defines their committee roles and responsibilities as a starting point for this review process. As the university has grown and changed, as the size of senate has changed, does your committee still carry out these functions? Are there functions that should be added, amended, or removed?

- The theme in most of the issues faculty contact me about is communication—either decisions not being communicated, being communicated after the fact, or being miscommunicated. I am trying to advocate for solutions to these communication issues in my meetings with administrators, but I would also ask that Faculty Senators lead by example and communicate with your college colleagues about your role on Senate and what work we are doing. Please make every effort to attend your committee meetings. If you have a time conflict, see about sending a proxy or at least communicating with the committee chair about your absence. There are some committees that might only meet once a semester, but their decisions impact all of us for years to come. Remind your colleagues of the anonymous Qualtrics link. Already this month, I have followed up on three issues identified by submissions made over the summer. Some of the recent issues have to do with textbook adoption issues (still working with Follet and Trennon Cavanaugh on this), training for Faculty on systems like Interfolio, and discussions with President Miller, Interim Provost Rudowsky, and multiple individuals in the division of Institutional Excellence about training for deans and department chairs, and establishing expectations for chairs and deans to also report back to their faculty information from their chairs/deans council meetings.
- I look forward to working with each of you toward these two goals, as well as in navigating the other issues that come our way this year. The new VP of Finance, Andrew Rogers, just started last Monday, but I plan to reach out to him and invite him to come to Senate to discuss issues we have historically had with getting access to relevant budget information. Interim Provost Cate Rudowsky has met with me twice about CUPA data issues and is working on a presentation for Senate soon that explains some of the intricacies of the data and processes related to it. If you have any suggestions of speakers you would like me to invite to Senate or of topics you want more information about, please reach out to me and make these suggestions.

Report prepared by Faculty Senate Speaker Isla Schuchs Carr

6. New Business

- a. Faculty Affairs – procedures to introduce which are up for review; FA will meet to review
 - i. 11.10.99.c0.01 – development of academic degree programs
 - ii. 11.10.99.c0.02 – development of certificate programs
 - iii. 11.10.99.c0.03 – distance education programs
 - iv. 11.10.99.c0.05 – substantive change
 - v. 12.01.99.c0.06 – performance reviews of faculty members
 - vi. 12.04.99.c0.01 – faculty senate
 - vii. 12.99.99.c0.05 – donation of royalties proceeds
 - viii. 12.99.99.c0.05 – royalties from faculty authored textbooks
 - ix. 12.99.99.c0.05 - faculty authored textbooks
 - x. 13.02.99.c0.01 – student complaints regarding employees
 - xi. 13.02.99.c0.03 – student grade appeals

- xii. 13.02.99.c0.05 – students role in decision making
 - xiii. 13.99.99.c1 – military service absences and readmission
 - xiv. 31.08.01.c1 – faculty and staff emeritus
 - b. ABE – updates from summer; met mid June to consider TAMU system regents award; put forth Prof Juan Carlos Huerta, CLA
7. Motion to accept reports from ABE & FA, Motion by Sen Anderson, second by Pattison, all yes; Budget requested documents shared with Exec committee
8. Liaison Reports
- a. AAUP/AFT (Kelly Bezio) – American Association of University Professors, advocate for matters of academic freedom, due process, shared governance; in spring voted to affiliate with AFT (American Federation of Teachers); shared definitions of academic freedom & shared governance; flyer distributed to join (also on Teams), dues on sliding scale; this year will advocate for academic freedom, shared governance and against legislative interference
 - b. Ombuds – Dr Sibila was very busy this summer
 - c. CIPIRA – two summer meetings
9. Motion to adjourn Sen Starliper, Second Tianxing Chu, all approve
- a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:22
10. Committee Breakout Sessions – then reports to be shared at next FS meeting

Senate Committees (*Committee Chair(s))

Academic Affairs

Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)

Lori Podolsky (MJBL)

Scott Johnson (CLA)

Ahmed Kamara (COB)

Felix Omoruyi (CNHS)

Robin Pissitola-Chair
(COEHD)

James Ikonomopoulos
(COEHD)

Val Murgulet (COS)

Zhaorui Li (COECS)

ABE

Tom Oldham (SAMC)*

Tianxing Chu (COECS)

Matthew Starliper (COB)

Leigh Shaver (CNHS)

Jeanine Birdwell (COEHD)

COC

Dale Pattison (Fall)*

Taoran Ji (COECS)

Ed Proffitt (COS)

Ric Ricard (COEHD) (Spring)*

Budget

Brian Shelton (SAMC)

Miguel Perez (CNHS)*

Rabih Zeidan (COB)*

Ahmed Kamara (COB)

Cherie McCollough

(COS)

Faculty Affairs

Susan DeGhizé (SAMC)

Zhaorui Li (COECS)

Alihan Hadimlioglu (COECS)*

Jennifer Anderson (MJBL)

Mara Barbosa (CLA)

Sandy Huang (COB)

Cathy Harrel (CNHS)

Ric Ricard (COEHD)

Judy Metcalf (COS)

Executive committee

Senator	academic unit	position
Isla Schuchs Carr	CLA	Speaker
Timothy Scott Johnson	CLA	Deputy Speaker
Cathy Harrel	CNHS	Secretary
Judy Metcalf	COS	Parliamentarian
Robin Johnson	COEHD	Chair of Academic Affairs Committee
Tom Oldham	SAMC	Chair, ABE
Dale Pattison	CLA	Co-Chair of Committee on Committees (Fall only)

Ric Ricard	COEHD	Co-Chair of Committee on Committees (Spring only)
Miguel Perez	CNHS	Co-Chair of Budget Committee
Rabih Zeidan	COB	Co-Chair of Budget Committee
Alihan Hadimlioglu	COECS	Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee
Jennifer Anderson	MJBL	representative

University committee assignments for FS:

Campus Wellness Committee	Judy Metcalf	Voting Member
Committee on Committees	Dale Pattison	Ex-Officio (voting)
Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators (CPIRA)	Taoran Ji	Non-Voting Member
Ethics and Compliance Committee	Isla Schuchs Carr	Ex-Officio (voting)
Expressive Activity Committee	Jennifer Anderson	Voting Member
Graduate Council	Ed Proffitt	Non-Voting Member
Honorary Degree Recommendation Panel	Isla Schuchs Carr	Ex-Officio (voting)
Institutional Effectiveness Committee for Academic Units	Isla Schuchs Carr	Ex-Officio (voting)
Staff Council	Isla Schuchs Carr	Ex-Officio (non-voting)
Strategic Planning Council	Isla Schuchs Carr	Ex-Officio (voting)
Student Success Council	Jeanine Birdwell	Voting Member
Transportation Advisory Committee		Voting Member

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate