

Faculty Senate Meeting  
September 20, 2024

ECDC 210

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

Attendance: see table

Senator	May 10	Aug 23	Sept 20							
Jennifer Anderson (Library)	X	x	x							
Jeanne Birdwell (COEHD)	X	x	x							
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	X	x	x							
Isla Schuchs Carr (CLA)	X	x	x							
Tianxing Ching Chu (COE)	0	x	x							
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	X	x	x							
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	X	x	x							
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	X	x	x							
Yu-Shan Huang (COB)	0	x	x							
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	X	0	x							
Taoran Ji (COE)	X	x	x							
Timothy Johnson (CLA)	X	x	x							
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	X	0	x							
Zhaorui Li (COE)	0	x	x							
Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	0	x	0							
Cherie McCullough (COS)	X	0	0							
Judy Metcalf (COS)	X	0	x							

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

Other: Kevin Houlihan, Catherine Rudowsky, Dr Sibila (Ombuds), Allie Kelly (AAUP), Susan Wolff Murphy, Michelle Hollenbaugh, David Ramcharan

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Johnson second by Senator Pattison
  - a. Approved unanimously, no additions
  
3. Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew Rogers, Vice President for Finance and Administration
  - a. Introduced himself, has been here 5 weeks, getting to know the institution and operations;
  - b. Q&A: biggest challenge – inflation in construction and utility costs, working to maintain affordable education for students, working with partners to identify ways to maintain budget, utilize resources and be fiscally responsible; review of budget analysis committee function and how he will work with that committee – he is in favor of transparency, bridging gap between producers & users of information; Dr Rogers looks forward to learning more about this committee and working with them
  
4. Approval of August minutes
  - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Metcalf, Second by Senator Johnson
  - b. Discussion – correction to spelling in #4
  - c. Approved unanimously

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

**Speakers Report for Faculty Senate Meeting 09/20/2024**

**Updates from System and State:**

The Texas A&M University System Association of Faculty Senates met September 6-8<sup>th</sup> in College Station, and the Texas Council of Faculty Senates will meet in San Marcos September 27-28<sup>th</sup>.

It is expected that there will be a Texas Senate Bill that will attempt to do away with faculty senates. Whether or not it will be successful in the Texas House of Legislators is not as certain, but we have been encouraged to work with our administration to promote the positive role that faculty senates play in shared governance of university campuses.

TAMUS Chancellor John Sharp is stepping down June 30<sup>th</sup>. The TAMUS Board of Regents are currently deciding who else they might include on the search committee. There will be three regents (Jay Graham, Mike Hernandez, and Michael J. Plank) who's terms are ending February 1<sup>st</sup>. 2025 and the speculation is they will want to name the new chancellor before their term ends, and before the legislative session begins in mid-January to create a strong and stable transition between Chancellor Sharp and whomever succeeds him as chancellor.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) commissioner stepped down in August, and the search underway to fill this position before the legislative session (goal of before January 1<sup>st</sup>).

There is also a TAMUS Organization and Governance Assessment currently underway with Deloitte. This could lead to some reorganization within the system, but the assessment was only recently started, and little else is known at this stage.

**Access to Senate—Hybrid Senate Meetings:**

I am working with various information technology professionals and looking at practices in place at other senates (through connections at TCFS and TAMUS-AFS). For now, remote attendance is limited to senate members, but hopefully we can find a way to host guests soon. Some of the issues identified are how to handle different speaking and voting privileges between senators and guests, and what happens if we go into a closed meeting.

For now, I will recognize senate members for speaking if they raise their hand (online or in-person) or turn their name placard to blue facing forward.

**TAMU-CC Senate Budget Updates:**

We still do not have ours quite yet. I am under the impression that we received at least the \$4,371.00 requested for Maintenance and Operations. We had some funds that were left over from last year, but there were some funds that moved due to the staff changes, and the Academic Affairs Business Office is still working out what our exact balance is.

**Updates on Senate goals for this academic year:**

1. Shared governance on our campus

*Senate Constitution and Bylaws*

We have found the most recent versions of the Faculty Senate Constitution (09-29-2023) and Senate Bylaws (04-19-2024). The bylaws include specific information about each senate committee's roles and responsibilities, so please review that language over the next two months. I would like for committee chairs to report any issues with the existing descriptions of their committees at the December meeting,

2. Improve communication

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) members were all invited to meet with the provost candidates during the candidate visits. Several members expressed how productive this experience was and shared a desire to meet more regularly with the provost. We are exploring how this might work, including inviting the interim provost to some FSEC meetings.

The new VP of Finance, Andrew Rogers, was invited to Senate today in an effort to improve communication about the university budget and hopefully, achieve a better working relationship especially for our Budget Advisory Committee.

President Miller has been invited to attend the October or November Faculty Senate meeting for a question-and-answer session. I have added a document for drafting questions we would like to ask President Miller when she comes. Please try to post questions there by October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I am working with Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) to identify one contact member from each college or academic unit. After each general senate meeting, I will write a short report that can be customized and sent out as either a listserv message by each contact, and/or given as a report in college meetings.

**Invited Senate Guests:**

After our last meeting I followed up with Registrar Missy Chapa and DLAI Director Denise Robledo and thanked them for coming and answering our questions. Missy Chapa said in the twenty years she has been here, that was her first time being invited to a senate meeting. She expressed interest in coming back to discuss some calendar processes in the next month or two. Interim Provost Rudowsky is also planning to give a CUPA presentation either at the October or November meeting, and I am still waiting on confirmation from President Miller if she can attend either the October meeting or the November meeting.

I am getting some complaints about issues with Canvas, where it might be helpful to have wider communication. There will be a presentation as part of EPIC, more information will be forthcoming.

I am also working to either have a representative from Follet (bookstore) come speak to us, or to meet with them and report back to senate. If you are having issues with either of these issues, please email me as soon as possible to better inform the questions/issues I ask them about. 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.

**Other updates or reminders:**

EPIC-November 12-14<sup>th</sup>-be on the lookout for official schedule/program information coming soon, many topics that might interest faculty including Interfolio, and Teams training.

CIP codes are still not available in Interfolio—Interim Provost Rudowsky will give us an update on that as well as on the Graduate School and First Year Learning Communities in her report.

There have been complaints of not enough accessible parking after the lots in front of Bay Hall were closed—reported to VP Institutional Excellence John LaRue, but I still have not heard back.

We are looking at potentially moving the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, due that date being a holiday that the Chancellor tends to dismiss early for. Of course, faculty rarely get to benefit from those early dismissals from the Chancellor, but also CCISD is out that day. I will send out a poll to see if enough people cannot attend or would prefer we change that date.

Scheduling continues to be a problem—specifically rooms large enough to accommodate 40 senators/ex officio in a round or U-shape, plus guests. We are working to identify some meeting spaces that best meet or needs for hybrid formats as well.

Our bylaws do allow us to close a meeting, at which point ex officio members and other guests would be asked to leave. If there is an issue that you wish to discuss in a closed meeting, please contact me in advance of the meeting and I will invite someone to make a motion to move to a closed meeting, or a motion can be made to close the meeting by any senator. I would prefer that this happens after all other senate business is conducted so that those dismissed are free to leave. Minutes will be taken, but not released beyond the executive committee without prior senate approval or a court order.

Update on NOAs—College Station still has NOAs but their salaries are not on the letter. They don't find out their salary until after September 1<sup>st</sup>, when it is made available via the Workday platform.

Increasing enrollment and dual credit issues are issues with other system universities

Discussion related to Del Mar and competing interests and also legislative initiatives & issues.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Senator Pizzitola
  - i. Had a meeting on September 10 was about introduction and what is expected out of the committee members (Many new members). Official meeting September 17. Approved all submitted items. Regular meetings are scheduled for third Tuesday of month
- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Oldham
  - i. Set a series of goals for Best Practices to carry on to the next Senators to the next. This will help not miss any deadlines. The goal is to alter the timeline for awards, so they don't have to work over the summer. Minnie Piper Stevens Award info will come out soon. Have tracked down most current version of Bylaws and constitution and those are posted in Teams and will be posted to website.
- c. Budget Analysis – Senators Perez/Zeidan
  - i. Has not seen the budget yet.
  - ii. Vice President of Finance, Andrew Rogers, attended today's Senate meeting
- d. Committee on Committees – Senators Pattison/Ricard
  - i. Faculty Satisfaction surveys - wanted to add two things for the next survey, should go out in October. Please use space below to provide the Faculty Senate with suggestions or issues you would like the Faculty Senate to address in the coming year, your responses will remain internal to the Faculty Senate only, it will not be shared with the administration. Another one will be going to Administration and want to be clear that the administration will see the answers. Draft of the survey by the next Executive Committee for approval.
- e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Hadimlioglu

The Faculty Affairs Committee completed the review of the following procedures on September 15, 2024:

  1. 12.01.99.C0.06, Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty
  2. 12.04.99.C0.01, Faculty Senate
  3. 13.02.99.C0.01, Students Complaints Regarding Employees
  4. 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeals
  5. 13.02.99.C0.05, Students' Role in Institutional Decision Making
  6. 13.99.99.C1, Military Service Absences and Readmission Rights for Students

Upon review, the committee provided specific comments and concerns regarding language, uniformity of web links, and ambiguities. Once the changes were performed and the language clarified, the committee approved drafts of the five procedures; a synopsis of changes is provided in the Faculty Senate Teams folder. They are ready for final Senate approval.

For the "Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty," Section 2.1 regarding faculty evaluation ratings underlines three levels: "Exceeds," "Meets Expectations," and "Unsatisfactory." An idea is to change it to: "Exceeds Expectations," "Meets Expectations," and "Unsatisfactory." This phrasing maintains consistency and clarity, making understanding the progression of performance levels easier. "Exceeds" alone is vague and does not clearly specify what is exceeded. We would like to have the Senate's opinion on that matter.

Discussion on Faculty Senate 12.04.99.C0.01 – 1.3 governed by constitution ... add "and bylaws"

Discussion on student complaints 13.02.99.c0.01– suggestion to remove sentence in summary: "This conduct may include: failure to show appropriate respect for the rights and opinions of others; misuse of

authority to promote a political or social cause within an instructional setting; or other conduct that adversely affects the learning environment. “ Vote to approve with this sentence removed

Discussion on 12.01.99.C0.06, Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty : change Exceeds to Exceeds expectations

Approval on all other procedures passed unanimously

We are introducing a new procedure in the Senate meeting on 09/20/2024:

- **33.06.01.C0.01, Flexible Work Arrangements**
  - Revised approval language to deans and dept chairs are in the approval process (sec 1.3.1)
  - Requests to work outside the US for 60+ days require Export Control review (sec 1.3.2)
  - Job sharing not being used; section deleted (sec 1.4)

This procedure is in the General Senate Teams folder for the September 20 meeting under the subfolder “Procedures to Introduce.”

The committee is still considering other procedures. Although some senators have already provided their comments, we have not finalized the review process. These procedures were previously introduced in August, and we will bring them to the Senate in October.

This concludes my report, and I would now like to call for a vote to approve the procedures presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

## 7. Liaison Reports

### a. CPIRA

- a. Export Control policy discussed; Open Access & Publication open for applications; OER also open for application; both have stipends available; Vivo platform – working to develop TAMUCC version to help develop research
- b. FDP collaborate effort between federal agencies& research institutions
- c. NCURA – provide support to manage research funding & issues

### b. Graduate Council

- a. Senator Johnson Graduate Council met yesterday, the general tone in the Council is frustration about changes being made and not communicating with Faculty. Website College of Graduate Studies does not exist and cannot get to the student forms. If you know the link, then you can access it. Will share the link with everyone. No meeting is set with the Graduate Coordinators.
- b. Susan Wolff Murphy – reviewed files for Grad faculty status

### c. AAUP

- a. Allie Kelly VP for chapter: legislative focus on faculty senates & DEI policies and potential attempts to regulate campus free speech; survey results faculty satisfaction survey -lot of folks not happy, >60% would not recommend employment in state, chief concerns academic freedom, political influences
- b. Next meeting Thursday at BUS
- c. Chapter now has link at website dedicated to chapter, does not go to university

### d. Expressive Activities Committee

- a. Jennifer Anderson is a liaison to the Expressive Activities Committee and this next week is Constitution Week, Constitution Day. There is a lot of events going on across campus, there was a watch party for the Debate. Will have golf carts taking people to the NRC to early vote. Also, if there is an elected official on campus to please let the Institutional Advancement know. There is a procedure/form (for guest speakers (elected official or other) to classroom [24.01.99.C0.01](#) Guest Speakers, Lecturers, and Entertainers

e. Other

## 8. Ex Officio Reports

### a. Interim Provost Cate Rudowsky

- a. Will present a detailed report on CUPA at Oct or Nov meeting; deans offices now have pdf data form with CUP data (which is updated annually); will have 3 different peer groups used to collect data
- b. CIP codes – not in Interfolio; Banner may be able to give this information, Provost Rudowsky open to discussion on potential suggestions on ways to make this information available; more information to come
- c. Responsibilities of Faculty Members [12.01.99.C0.03](#)..... approved with concerns by Senate in Spring; concerns about word “collegiality”, term replaced with “professionalism”. Another concern regarding change course modality – wording added to make this more workable

### b. Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes.....

- a. COGS – on website under academics – COGS now Graduate Education, information and forms & templates under this link; under research there is now graduate excellence page (funding, grow, phi kappa phi, etc); continue to work on table to map where items are located
  - b. Enrollment management changes – Andy Benoit stepped down effective Monday, Dr Brenda Harms now interim enrollment management role; Andrew Johnson interim AVP students, new AVP person -suggest bring a guest
  - c. First year learning experience – spring will be focus of evaluation and assessment on changes
- c. Motion to extend 15 minutes, motion by Senator Anderson, second Senator Johnson; all in favor
- a. Changes coming in terms of how courses are considered F2F or hybrid; this has financial impact, more information coming
  - b. Catalog changes – Jenny Vela now moving to registrar team
  - c. Univ budget advisory committee – new VP & Prov Rudowsky will get together to establish regular contact
- d. Ombuds Deborah Sibilis – no report
- c. Staff Council Vice President Stephaine Long – no report
- d. Chief Information Officer David Ramcharan
- a. Pshishing – do NOT approve duo if you did not initiate it!!!

## 9. Old Business

- a. Constitution and Bylaws
- b.

## 10. New Business

## 11. For the good of the order

## 12. Motion to adjourn Sen Metcalf per, Second Oldham, all approve

- a. Meeting adjourned @ 4:25

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 Ikononopoulos  
(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