

Faculty Senate Meeting

August 29, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order @ 2:01 pm

Attendance: see table

	Aug 29										
Mohammad Alhamad (Library)	x										
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	0										
Kelly Bezio (CLA)	x										
Fereshteh (Farri) Billot (COS)	x										
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	x										
Luis Espinoza (CONHS)	x										
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	x										
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	x										
Yu-Shan (Sandy) Huang (COB)	x/z										
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	x										
Taoran Ji (COE)	0										
Dimitrios Koutmas (COB)	x/z										
Denise Lara (COEHD)	x										
Timothy Scott Johnson (CLA)	x										
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	?										
Scott King (COE)	x										
Melissa Leal (CONHS)	x										

Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	x										
Seth McKnight (SAMC)	x										
Judy Metcalf (COS)	x										
Oliver Cruz-Milan (COB)	x										
Joseph Mollick (COB)	x										
Miguel Moreno (CLA)	0										
Thomas Oldham (SAMC)	x										
Felix Omoruyi (CONHS)	x										
Dale Pattison (CLA)	x										
Ingo Pecher (COS)	x										
Bethanie Pletcher (COEHD)	x										
Lori Podolsky (Library)	x										
Ric Ricard (COEHD)	x										
Habib Senot (COS)	x										
Brian Shelton (CLA)	0										
M-Emad Tahtamouni (COS)	x										

Other: Cate Rudowsky, Kevin Houlihan, Susan Wolf Murphy, John LaRue, Joseph Doan (Staff Council), Ariel Kelly (AAUP), Ben Soto (zoom), ~~Deborah Sibilia (ombuds)~~, Isla Schuchs Carr (zoom, past speaker), Shay Lee (admin support)

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Metcalf second by Senator Podolsky
 - a. Approved unanimously without abstentions
3. Guest Speaker: Ryan Butler, Auxiliary Services
4. Approval of May minutes
 - a. Minutes approved last May
5. Speakers Report: Speaker Johnson
SB37 Updates:

Our university current is in good position to keep our advisory body in place. We will cover much of the changes needed later in our action items. However, in brief I can say that at the system level, the existence of faculty bodies has not been under the same attacks that schools in the Texas State and UT Systems have seen. The biggest curveball is the regents' decision announced yesterday to change the name of Faculty Senates to Faculty Councils. This is something we will need to change in our Constitution when we get to our action items.

Appointed positions: Part of SB37 requires university presidents to appoint one representative from each electoral unit. President Miller asked existing senators to be forwarded to her for these initial appointments. These are the names we are asking President Miller to approve (she has been in College Station all week, so she has not had time to officially do this, but I don't think we have cause to worry here):

College of Science: Judy Metcalf

College of Liberal Arts: Miguel Moreno

College of Nursing: Cathy Harrel

Library: Lori Podolsky

SAMC: Kevin Loffler

COEHD: Ric Ricardo

College of Business: Joseph Mollick

Engineering and Computer Science:

Alihan Hadimlioglu

The one exception to this list is Miguel Moreno. Since Mara Barbosa left the university, CLA had one senate seat vacant. We are asking President Miller to fill that vacancy with her appointment. Miguel, as many of you know, is a former speaker and capable senate representative.

When we cover the changes to the Constitution, our goal is to hold a vote here. If we reach that threshold, then in the next two weeks, we will host an open forum for the campus faculty community outlining these changes. Following that forum, we will then send out a vote to all faculty via Qualtrix asking faculty to vote the changes up or down. If 2/3 of respondents vote yes, then we will both be in good legal standing and abide by our original Constitution's guidelines for amendments.

Finally, you will notice some changes to our website. To make sure no one accuses us of not following SB37, I have asked Shay to take down our Constitution and Bylaws. We will upload the revised ones once they are ready. I have also asked her to draft a statement for our website that says beginning September 1, we are the Faculty Council. It will take some time to change the website more thoroughly.

A&M Faculty Senate Meeting, September 5-7, College Station:

I, Speaker Johnson, will attend. If there are specific questions you would like me to pose to other A&M system senators, please be in touch. I cannot guarantee any answers, but they might be able to provide useful perspectives based on practices at their institutions.

SB2615 and remote work policies:

There is a new TAMU system policy, 33.06.01 Flexible Work Arrangements to comply with this new law. As of now, there is no TAMU-CC specific policy, but please keep your eyes peeled for one in the near future. It appears that those faculty and programs who work fully remotely should not be affected by any changes. The tricky parts will be negotiating people who work remotely part of the time.

Dual Credit Students and SB412 "Materials Harmful to Minors":

Revision to Texas Penal Code 43.24 that removes affirmative defenses for showing “materials harmful to minors” for educational purposes. This probably has an apparent narrow legal scope, but it opens the door to parent curricular challenges when you have an underage student in your classroom.

There are as of yet no System or campus policies here, but we should expect some changes in the future as we think about how to balance mitigating legal risks with keeping the content and integrity of our courses. I have already had conversations with Provost Rudowsky, Kevin Houlihan, and John LaRue about this.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Senators Metcalf & Podolsky
 - i. Have not met yet, plan to meet in September; working on expediting change requests
- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Oldham
 - i. Have not met yet officially, but have been part of discussions regarding changing constitution, anticipate bylaws change
- c. Budget Analysis – Senator Pecher & King
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Committee on Committees – Senator Ricard
 - i. Nothing to report
- e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Hadimlioglu

The Faculty Affairs Committee welcomes all to the new academic year. Our committee remains dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all faculty members. In the coming months, we will continue our work to advance policies that promote professional development and shared governance. We invite your engagement, your insights, and your collaboration as we navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead. This month, we are introducing the following rules and procedures for review:

- **11.99.02.C0.01, Conduct Requirements for Admissions Applications and Transcripts**

- 5-year review; initial revisions by Registrar
- Key edits
 - Additional details for what happens if a student withdraws (sec 3.2-3.3)

- **11.99.99.C0.01, Academic Minors**

Revised by the Associate Provost and Registrar by request

- Key edits
 - Removed limit for counting credits for both minors and majors (sec 5.1)

- **12.06.99.C1, Post-Tenure Review**

- Edit needed to remove conflicting statement about PTR timeline (review schedule unchanged)
- Key edit
 - Years included in PTR (sec 3.5)
 - Newly tenured - starts 1st year of tenure, PTR in 7th year
 - Newly promoted to Full/previous PTR - starts in review year, PTR in 6th year
 - Unsat rating - starts year after last review
 - Timeline revised to align with included years (sec 3.7)

- **12.99.01.C0.01, Faculty Development Leave**
 - 5-year review; initial revisions by Provost, Assoc Provost, & CFE
 - Key edits
 - FDL report to be included in annual review (sec 7.1)
 - Clerical edits
- **12.99.01.C0.02, External Faculty Fellowships and Awards**
 - 5-year review; initial revisions by Academic Affairs
 - Key edits
 - Simplification of eval criteria (R&I - sec 2)
- **13.99.99.C0.01, Course Examinations and Study Week**
 - Reviewed as part of the 5-year cycle
 - Key edits
 - 1.2.3 added to address scheduling conflicts
 - Provost to notify dept chair and faculty of rescheduled exams (sec 1.2.5)
 - Clerical edits
- 13.99.99.C1, Military Service Absences and Readmission Rights for Students**
 - Previously reviewed by Senate but additional requirements needed before OGC approval
 - Key details
 - Outlines the process for students on approved military leave (overseen by Dean of Students)
 - Excused absences are covered in sec 2
 - Readmission process is covered in sec 3
 - Academic continuity during absence is covered in sec 4
 - Appeals are covered in sec 5
- **32.01.01.C0.01, Complaint and Appeal Process for Faculty Members**
 - 5-year review; initial revisions by Provost
 - Key edits
 - Reorganized to clarify steps of the process throughout
- **32.01.01.C0.01, Faculty Ombuds**
 - 5-year review; initial revisions by Provost
 - Key edits
 - Added workload release details of ombuds (sec 4.6)

These procedures are placed in the General Senate Teams folder for the August 29 meeting under the subfolder "Procedures to Introduce." This concludes my report. 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), Kelly Bezio (College of Liberal Arts), Mohammad Alhamad (Mary and Jeff Bell Library), Sandy Huang (College of Business), Luis Espinosa (College of Nursing and Health Science), Bethanie Pletcher (College of Education and Human Development), M-Emad Tahtamouni (College of Science)*

- 7. Liaison Reports
 - a. CPIRA -

- a. Change in leadership, Dr. Becky Health chair COS
- b. Graduate Council - Lori Podolsky
 - a. First meeting yesterday, Sean Britt new Grad Coordinator
- c. Heather DeGrande chairing Grad council curriculum committee
- d. Brief discussion on roles of people on grad committee commenting on items outside expertise
Submitted by Lori Podolsky, Faculty Senator
- e. AAUP (Ariel Kelly/Kelly Bezio)
 - a. American Assn University Professors – Ariel Kelly vice pre; Kelly Bezio president; Scott Johnson Treasurer
 - b. Associated with AFT
 - c. Resources for faculty on various issues – ie. Academic freedom, shared governance
 - d. Encourage faculty to join; meeting Sept 12 for contingent faculty; oct 10 full chapter meeting; meetings at BUS
- d. Expressive Activities Committee (Kelly Bezio)
 - a. No report, have not met
- 8. Ex Officio Reports
 - a. Provost Cate Rudowsky
 - a. BOR vote status of Faculty Senate – changes in exec session to rename to Faculty Advisory Committee, this considered positive since our committee remains intact.
 - b. Questions on change from NOA from annual to monthly sum, attempt to clarify for 9 month to 12 month salaries; phrase that states you may have other duties – meant to be catch all to acknowledge NOA do not spell out everything
 - c. Hooding – was going to eliminate doctorate hooding at ABC, feedback is to keep two hoodings
 - d. Exec Council discussion of faculty submitting grades, then being off contract. Submissions due at noon, students don't see grades until 5. Some faculty do this intentionally due to students harassing faculty, so discussion has evolved to planning faculty development on resources and tactics dealing with belligerent students; will seek assistance for faculty who have experience in this area
 - e. John LaRue & Provost Rudowsky addressed concerns SB 4112 regarding interpretation what is considered material harmful to minors (could be sexual or violence).
 - a. Can run list of minors and send to faculty so aware of minors in courses, will distribute next week through Chairs – will be sent only to those with minors
 - b. if there is core reason you would need content to teach material it should be defensible, since its penal code – the faculty could be charged
 - c. Suggest if questions have a colleague review
 - d. Would be possible to have age restrictions for some courses
 - e. Are currently getting more guidance
 - f. Provost office will send out notification to faculty regarding change of name as approved by the BOR
 - b. Ombuds Deborah Sibilia (ombuds)
 - a. absent
 - c. Staff Council – Joseph Doan
 - a. Trying to fill 3 vacancies
 - b. Univ Relations committee working on Halloween/break in the day Oct 31, 11-1
 - d. Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
 - a. Access to AI models available via College Station to faculty & staff, coming mid semester; seeking senate guidance & input

- b. Duo – several employees lost paycheck due to Duo spam, Duo spam means attack – need to call and report – DON'T hit green check! Call feature will be eliminated to increase security. If get a new device 9 like a phone- will require in person or video chat to verify your identity
- c. IT governance restarting; committees and chairs being developed; presents Cabinet has outlined major charters
- d. Banner 9 upgrade occurring, back end of page updated Sept 15
- e. Undergrad Council (Judy Metcalf)
 - a. Not met yet
- 9. Old Business
 - a. none
- 10. New Business
 - a. Changes to Senate Constitution discussed
 - i. Replace all places that mention Faculty Senate with Faculty Advisory Council, Replace Senators with Representatives; Clarify 5 – removal of Senators to comply with SB 37
 - ii. Motion by L Espinoza, second by Lori Podolsky to approved amended constitution with 3 friendly amendments
 - 1. Approved unanimously
 - iii. Timeline (to be completed by Sept 26)
 - 1. Open forum –after Friday, Sept 12 @ noon
 - a. Send email to all faculty members from Faculty Senate email address
 - 2. Faculty vote via Qualtrics– Sept 15-19
 - 3. Open meeting Monday, Sept 22 to count votes
- 11. For the good of the order
 - a. Introductions, use of name placards, reminder to sign in
 - b. Reminder that meetings will now be broadcast/streamed, no recording requirements pr SB 37, broadcast link must be accessible
 - c. AAUP membership includes liability insurance which support legal assistance
- 12. Motion to adjourn Senator Espinoza, Second Senator Leal; all approve
 - a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:37

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate/Advisory Council

Approved on: September 26, 2025