

Faculty Senate Meeting

Feb 7, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m.

UC Oso 221

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

Attendance: see table

--	May 10	Aug 23	Sept 20	Oct 11	Nov. 8	Dec 6	Jan 17	Feb 7		
Jennifer Anderson (Library)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x	x		
Jeanne Birdwell (COEHD)	X	x	x	x	0	x/z	x	0		
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Isla Schuchs Carr (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Tianxing Chu (COE)	0	x	x	x	0	x/z	x	x		
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x	x		
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		
Yu-Shan Huang (COB)	0	x	x	x/Z	0	x/z	x/z	x		
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	X	0	x	x	x	x	x	0		
Taoran Ji (COE)	X	x	x	x/Z	x	x/z	x	X		
Timothy Johnson (CLA)	X	x	x	0	x	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	x		
Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	0	x	0	0	x	xx	x	x		
Cherie McCullough (COS)	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Judy Metcalf (COS)	X	0	x	x	0	x	x	X		

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

Other: Kevin Houlihan, Susan Wolf Murphy, Kelly Bezio & Ariel Kelly (AAUP), Ben Soto, Deborah Sibila (Ombuds)

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Starliper second by Senator Anderson
 - a. Approved unanimously
3. Approval of January minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Anderson, Second by Senator Zeidan
 - b. Approved unanimously with edits/corrections, no abstentions
4. Speakers Report: Speaker Schuchs Carr
Speakers Report for Faculty Senate Meeting 02/7/2025

Welcome to our new COB senator Jason Heavlin, who is filling the remained of Ahmed Kamara's term.

We are in the process of selecting two COS senators to replace the Ed Proffit and Cherie McCullough for the remainder of the semester.

T-shirts are in, please see me to get yours after Senate if I did not catch you before the meeting. Group photo will be on March 21st—so wear your shirt to the meeting-I will send out a reminder.

Deputy Speaker Scott Johnson and I are preparing to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senate Meeting in Austin on February 21st and 22nd.

The Provost will not make it today, as she is on her way back from the Board of Regents meeting. She did meet with FSEC last week.

Towards the goal of more efficient scheduling there was Ad Astra Training for chairs and undergraduate coordinators in December, but not for graduate coordinators. It was an oversight; I have been copied on plans to include the training for them soon.

Updates on COS and COEHD Dean Search Committees, both have met again, and recruitment/nominations is ongoing for the next few weeks, then we will begin the review process.

Other Committees:

Institutional Effectiveness for Academic Units—big issues were noncompliance with syllabus submissions, issues when accrediting faculty of fields/institutions not matching from form input to transcripts. Discussed options to streamline process.

Ethics and Compliance Committee Meeting—major news of importance to faculty is that there is a DEI LAW OPERATIONS MANUAL that will be published on the website soon. It mostly deals with which office is responsible for reporting/auditing certain areas.

Transportation Advisory Committee—no meeting scheduled yet, but I am going to pursue the issue of accessible parking with them.

I realize there were many reported issues with textbooks this semester, if you hear of any issues there or with Canvas, please forward them to me. I will work with Follet, Neftali Rivera, and the provost's office to get a FAQ together addressing common issues (textbook adoption for Summer and Fall will be soon)! For Canvas issues, I will work with DLAI to get a FAQ for common questions like the previous two times. I will include this in the report to college colleagues that I will send out sometime between now and Monday.

Item of new business—will discuss under new business, but want to clarify procedure:

In order to introduce it, we will need 2/3 majority of those present & voting in order to open deliberation; it then needs 3/4 majority of those present & voting to pass any changes.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Senator Pizzitola (zoom)
 - i. Met Monday, Jan 27 – all were approved; meeting in a few weeks with a few grad issues
 - ii. Report accepted
- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Oldham
 - i. Faculty Excellence Awards – finalists notified Dec 14, deadline Feb 14 for final applications; will then decide on Awards
 - ii. Report accepted
- c. Budget Analysis – Senator Perez

- i. UBA meeting with Prov Rudowsky & Andrew Roberts in Feb 11! Positive that there is a meeting, but it's scheduled for 30 minutes, then additional meetings to be scheduled
 - ii. Report accepted
 - d. Committee on Committees – Senators Pattison/Ricard
 - i. The Faculty Satisfaction survey report presented (see Teams folder)
 - 1. 42% compliance/completion rate
 - 2. Discussion related to distribution
- Motion Senator Metcalf to accept COC presentation without edits; Motion to distribute to faculty from Senator Sen Johnson;
- ii. Motion to distribute to President and Provost by Sen Johnson & accepted; Motion to distribute to faculty (from Senate) motion Sen Starliper, all accepted

e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Hadimlioglu

We are introducing a new rule and a procedure in the Senate meeting on 2/7/2025:

Due to concerns about double voting in the various P&T committees and a need to standardize details for the external review process, the P&T documents are undergoing revision. This will be a targeted review, focusing only on new edits to these documents. Any other edits or comments will not be addressed during this review.

- 2.01.01.C1, Tenure
 - Revisions to address P&T committees and external reviewers (**ONLY THESE SECTIONS ARE OPEN FOR REVIEW**) - did not advance next review date
 - Key Edits
 - External Reviewers
 - Section 6.4 expanded to include details for external reviewer process
 - External reviewer evals to be shared with dept chair & dept committee evals (sec 7.7)
 - Committees
 - Added clause to dept committee stating that members can't be on unit or university committees (sec 7.2)
 - Allowed for all tenured/tenure-track dept committee members to review pre-tenure cases since those do not advance to the unit/university committees
 - Removed date from unit P&T committee section (sec 8.1)
 - Added clause to unit committee stating that members can't be on university committee (sec 8.1)
 - Removed >49% admin disqualifier since that is not part of dept or university eligibility (sec 8.1)
 - Added clause about consecutive terms applying to elected or dean-appointed members (sec 8.1 & 8.1.1)
- 33.99.99.C0.02, Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members
 - Revisions to address P&T committees and external reviewers (**ONLY THESE SECTIONS ARE OPEN FOR REVIEW**)
 - Key Edits align with edits to 12.01.01.C1, Tenure

These procedures are placed in the General Senate Teams folder for the February 7 meeting under the subfolder "Rules & Procedures to Introduce."

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

- 11.99.99.C0.05, Certification of Degrees
 - Removed the CGS dean's review and shifted to the academic unit deans (sec 2.2 & 3.2)
- 12.07.99.C0.01, Fixed-Term Faculty

- Added additional details based on academic rank procedure for Associate/Senior ranks for each type
- Clarified 15 hour workload is for instruction (sec 1)
- Instructors have service expectations (sec 2.1.1)
- Associate clinical faculty degree requirement changed to master's to allow for promotion path (sec 2.2.2(b))
- Statement about professional conduct removed from associate research professor to align with other categories (sec 2.4.2(b))
- Added "a minimum of" to the 5 year requirement promotion to prof, research, & library to align with others
- Unit handbooks will need to expand on promotion requirements
- 33.99.03.C0.02, Performance Reviews of Academic Administrators
- Created General section (sec 1)
- Clarified application of process to interim appointments (sec 1.2)
- Initial evals done after the 1st semester rather than after the 1st year (sec 1)
- 33.99.08.C0.01, Student Employment
- Updates due to reorg if Office of International Ed throughout
- Update to work study wage details (sec 4.4)
- 33.99.08.C0.02, Graduate Assistants
- TAs can't be the instructor of records for 5000 & 6000 courses (sec 2.2)
- Details regarding remote work for international students added (sec 7.2)

The committee reviewed the documents and offered specific comments on language, consistency, and ambiguities. We addressed issues concerning the grammar and readability of several sections, which have now been corrected. After clarifications, the committee approved the procedures.

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

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

Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Report accepted.

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)

6. Liaison Reports

- a. CPIRA
- b. Graduate Council
 - a. Meet Feb 13; did online vote for some faculty status approvals
- c. AAUP (Kelly Bezio)

- a. Focused on 2025 legislative session – updated 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 – if you hear of anything that might affect faculty, Kelly can filter things us
- 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. No report
 - b. Ombuds Deborah Sibilila (ombuds)
 - a. 2024 annual report to be placed in teams: 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. Three recommendations: include administrative time in reports, summer compensation has been taken care of, continued trainings
 - b. Have had 5 visits this year
 - c. Attended ombuds basic training last semester and will attend a 3-day mediation course this semester
 - c. Staff Council – Ben Soto
 - a. Spring break in the day – will correspond with Homecoming (last week in Feb 26, 11-1) - games, food, etc.
 - d. Interim Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
 - a. Grade sync – working hard to be completed by midterm grades, need volunteers to test it
 - b. President's Cabinet to set priorities – Student success, research, DLAI, administrative bucket, data governance
 - c. IT facilitators to bring issues and consolidate, leverage priorities and expenses
 - d. TMP back up and started
 - e. Student portal improvement on the list
 - f. Internet still down in dorms – fiber optic cut, working on it
- 8. Old Business
 - a. none
- 9. New Business
 - a. Workload procedure: issue of 12 to 15 workload credits/someone getting full release might be in violation of system policy
 - i. 3.3.1 & 3.3.2
 - ii. It was brought to Faculty Senate Executive Committee that this technically would allow a faculty member to receive full RSCA release (zero teaching) without expressly being hired a research faculty member. This seems to violate TAMUS 12.03 3.1, which states: A minimum teaching workload for undergraduate courses is nine semester credit hours of classroom teaching; a minimum teaching load for graduate courses is six semester credit hours of classroom teaching. Members may adopt higher minimum teaching workloads but may not adopt lower minimum teaching workloads than these prescribed. Participation of senior faculty teaching undergraduate students is strongly encouraged.”

- iii. We are proposing changing it back to 12.

Vote to open for discussion, over 2/3 voted to open to discussion

Per Kevin – if its out of compliance with system we will have to change it; it they interpret it differently does this group still at to propose a change; Provost & Kevin meeting with Vice Chancellor on Feb 18, will ultimately go to system legal to review if it's a violation

- iv. Motion by Sen Alihan Hadimlioglu : To not change verbiage from Dec passage.

- 1. All approved, 3 abstentions, no negative

- 10. For the good of the order

- a. none

- 11. Motion to adjourn Senator Oldham, second by Senator Anderson, all approve

- a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:59

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate