

Faculty Senate Meeting

April 18, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting

1. Meeting was called to order @ 2:00 pm

Attendance: see table

--	May 10	Aug 23	Sept 20	Oct 11	Nov. 8	Dec 6	Jan 17	Feb 6	Mar 21	Apr 18
Jennifer Anderson (Library)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	x	0
Jeanne Birdwell (COEHD)	X	x	x	x	0	x/z	x	0	x	x
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0
Chris Bird (COS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	x
Isla Schuchs Carr (CLA)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x
Tianxing Chu (COE)	0	x	x	x	0	x/z	x	x	X	x
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	X	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	X	x
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	X	x
Yu-Shan Huang (COB)	0	x	x	x/Z	0	x/z	x/z	x	x/z	x
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	X	0	x	x	x	x	x	0	X	x
Taoran Ji (COE)	X	x	x	x/Z	x	x/z	x	X	X	x
Jin, Lei (COS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
Timothy Johnson (CLA)	X	x	x	0	x	x	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	X	0
Kevin Loeffler (SAMC)	0	x	0	0	x	xx	x	x	X	x

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

Other: ~~Cate Rudowsky~~, Kevin Houlihan, Susan Wolf Murphy, Kelly Bezio & Ariel Kelly (AAUP), Ben Soto, Michelle Hollenbaugh

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Senator Starliper second by Senator Pizzitola
 - a. Approved unanimously without abstentions
3. Approval of March minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Metcalf, Second by Senator Huang
 - b. Approved unanimously with one abstentions
4. Guest

Shared Governance Presentation by Guest Speaker Dr. Kelly Bezio, TAMU-CC AAUP President

Shared Governance is structure & process for partnership, equity, accountability, and ownership. It puts the responsibility, authority, and accountability for practice related decisions into the hands of those individuals that will operationalize them

Shared governance versus participatory management discussed and contrasted in terms of:

- Goals
- Use of Input
- How Decisions are made
- Level at Which Decisions are made
- Leadership style

SB 37 components – goal to end Shared Governance, consolidate all curriculum decisions to a new “curriculum Review Committee” under the THECB, THECB will determine success thresholds for degree and certificate programs, faculty members not involved in hiring decisions, removes peer review and due process for faculty grievances, Office of Ombudsman created to oversee compliance; Information will be shared with Senate members in Teams folder – we are encouraged to share it

Here's the link for AAUP-AFT membership: [Connect | Forms](#)
[TX SB37 | 2025-2026 | 89th Legislature | LegiScan](#)

5. Speakers Report: Speaker Schuchs Carr

- a. Have discussed legislative concerns with Pres Miller, meeting again Apr 29; aware of system efforts and is working with local representatives; we won't know what will be required/allowed until the bill is finalized, best thing to do is to advocate now with your legislator
- b. 3 international students had visas revoked, have reached out about this to student affairs, seems related to traffic violations; may impact ability to recruit international students in future
- c. Update on first year leaning communities: all but 4 former faculty have been reassigned, of those 3 are under consideration for other jobs on campus, 2 retired; approx. half of sections had been assigned by last week; Amy Baldwin, who is writing common curriculum, will be on Campus May 1 & 2, training times will be worked out
- d. One last meeting for Senate this year, elections ongoing, if you are committee chair – that continues until end of this semester; transfer process will begin as new Senate takes place; reminder to submit committee reports for this year
- e. Calendar committee updates: 4 faculty on Calendar committee (none who are senators, not all colleges are represented in committee), meeting prior to end of semester, Meeting minutes and updated information & calendar drafts in Teams; spring break has been changed for next year to start Mar 9, but last excel shows old date
- f. Transportation Advisory meeting upcoming April 24; new construction has some issues regarding safety and accessible parking
- g. Grad programs – anticipate announcement for new position under Susan Wolf Murphy that will coordinate and assist with grad programs

6. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Senator Pizzitola

Meeting last week and approved program for College of Business Associate of Business Administration degree, another UCC meeting on 4/28.

For 4/28, we are going to have 3 new programs to review, which is a lot of reading. I was hoping to complete the ABA embedded associate early (on 4/14), so we could focus on the others for

the 4/28 meeting. I plan to send the proposals to the committee ASAP for these new programs:

- PhD ENGR
- PhD Data Science
- BS Architecture/B-Arch

In addition, we've had some last-minute requests for program changes and a couple new courses to go with the PhD Engineering program.

Two embedded associate degree approved, COS working on one

b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Oldham

- i. Faculty Excellence Awards – have been announced, publicly acknowledged at May 2 Islander awards ceremony
 1. Teaching – Stephanie Rollie Rodriguez, SAMC
 2. Teaching Innovation - Dara Orbach, COSCI
 3. RSCA- Dimitrios Koutmous, COB
 4. Creative activity – Dino Mulić, SAMC
 5. Service Award – K. Michelle Hunnicutt Hollenbaugh, COEHD
- ii. Regents Professor – deadline just passed, will be meeting to review those
- iii. Elections –ballots closed a few hours ago, will meet Monday April 21 (public meeting over zoom @ 9 am) to confirm and runoffs on Tuesday if needed
- iv. Bylaws – in new business, clarifying current practices

7. Budget Analysis – Senator Perez

- i. BAC meeting with Prov Rudowsky & Andrew Roberts April 9, Chris Bird was introduced, good discussion
- ii. Spring meeting May 7 scheduled – full committee meeting planned

8. Committee on Committees – Senators Pattison/Ricard

- i. Faculty interest survey for committees is active, sent out to 460 folks, 176 completions so far (38%) – please complete, reminder will go out Monday

9. Faculty Affairs – Senator Hadimlioglu

Introducing new procedures in the Senate meeting on 4/18/2025:

• **11.09.99.C0.01, Low-Producing Minors and Certificates**

- Previously shown in draft form; returning for full review
- New procedure outlining the campus review process for low-producing minors and certs

• **15.01.03.C1, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research**

- Revised to align with updated system regulation
- Key edits
- Added sections 2.5 & 2.6 to provide details on the final steps of the review (aligning with updates in the system regulation)
- Added section 3 to state that funds must not be spent until it is determined that there is no financial conflict of interest

• **15.05.04.C1, High Risk Global Engagements and International Collaborations**

- Returning with new revisions necessary to align with updated system regulation
- New edits (highlighted)
- General prohibitions expanded to better align with system language (sec 1.2)

- Added details about initial review requirements (sec 3.5)
- Added submission deadline details (sec 3.5 and 3.7)
- **15.99.07.C1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing**
- Reviewed to ensure alignment with updated system regulation
- Key edits
- Minor clerical edits only These procedures are placed in the General Senate Teams folder for the April 18 meeting under the subfolder “Procedures to Introduce.”

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

- **12.99.99.C0.01, Recruitment and Appointment of Faculty**
- HR reviews advertisements in advance (sec 3.4) ◦ Advertising period for searches reduced from 30 to 15 days (sec 7)
- Waivers of advertising/recruiting processes done by Provost (sec 7)
- Removed CHRO from review of recommendation (sec 4.1)
- NOAs send from HR (not Provost) (sec 4.3)
- **12.99.99.C0.02, Faculty Attendance at University Commencement**
- Changed "notifying" to "get approval" from the dean/director
- Content will be moved to the responsibilities procedure at next review (and this procedure will be deleted)
- **12.99.99.C0.03, Graduate Committee Membership**
- Completely rewritten and reorganized to align with current process (without CGS)
- Clarified scope to refer to membership in a graduate committee pool rather than individual grad committees
- Removed "associated with a graduate program" as a faculty qualifier throughout
- **33.99.99.C0.04, Children and Dependent Adults in the Workplace**
- Created a General section from language in the Summary (sec 1)
- Expanded section on asking employees to care for children to include all employees (sec 2.3)
- Clerical edits

The committee reviewed the documents and requested minor edits as the documents were already quite clear and concise. After these edits, the committee has 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 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)*

Approved, with 21 votes yes, one nay and one abstentions.

10. Liaison Reports

- a. CPIRA - Unfortunately, due to certification issues (previous incomplete documentation to Homeland Security), the following 15 programs are currently unable to enroll international students. Awaiting approval to begin admitting students.

Undergraduate (8):

- BA, Media Arts
- BFA, Communication Design
- BS, Civil Engineering
- BS, Early Childhood Education
- BS, Industrial Engineering
- BS, Public Health
- BS, Special Education
- BS, Sport Management

Graduate (7):

- Master's Certificate, Applied Computing Essentials
- MA, Clinical Psychology
- MS, Athletic Training
- MS, Chemistry
- MS, Data Science
- MS, Engineering
- MS, Professional School Counseling

- b. Graduate Council - Lori Podolasky

Curriculum: Discussion and possible action regarding CourseLeaf and/or UCC: Question arose regarding the availability of the PhD Engineering program proposal for feedback prior to the next meeting. Proposal may be revised prior to the next meeting (May 2025); however, the launch is planned for Fall 2026.

Question/comment arose about the culture of the university and that graduate programs also go through Graduate Council as well as University Curriculum Committee (Faculty Senate).

Rules and Procedures: Discussion and possible action regarding Graduate Faculty Status: Lost Quorum and informal discussion followed. Concern arose regarding the approval bodies or committees for multi-disciplinary graduate programs. With no specific body to approve multi-disciplinary graduate degrees and curriculum, suggestion was made that some kind of governance for multi-disciplinary programs, curriculum and degrees be created. Dr. Murphy responded that this would be a valuable discussion as communication between disciplines could be improved. Tabled to possibly discuss at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is May 8.

- c. AAUP (Scott Johnson)

- a. Yesterday Higher ed faculty in action – all faculty should have received an email with useful links and how to get involved

- d. Expressive Activities Committee (Jennifer Anderson not here)

- a. No report

- e. Calendar Committee

- a. Included speakers report and in teams

- f. University Committee on Committees

- a. No report

- g. Staff Council Liaison Report

- No report

11. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Provost Cate Rudowsky
 - a. No report
- b. Ombuds Deborah Sibia (ombuds) – not present
 - a. No report
- c. Staff Council – Ben Soto
 - a. Planning on Break in the Day for Shark Week
- d. Interim Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
 - a. Grade sync – completed testing, DLAI completed testing; hoping to turn on Friday, April 25 in time for spring grades; DLAI will hold some training sessions
 - b. Still working on Canvas with other issues (like point numbers in student view)
 - c. Reviewed guidelines for AI so can set up website information
 - d. Question raised for overleaf.com, overleaf: the collaborative, online LaTeX editor; Ben will look into this

12. Old Business

- a. none

13. New Business

- a. Amendments to Bylaws

The following changes to the Senate Bylaws have been discussed and proposed. They are posted in Teams, please take a look at them. Vote will occur in May meeting.

Please see below for a general summary of the changes:

- a) existing language places the elections two weeks after Spring Break, which only makes sense if the final full Senate meeting is in April. I know we didn't follow this language this year, and I'm pretty sure we didn't follow it last year. Further, Spring Break moves around a lot, so basing any timeline off it is probably not a good idea.
- b) there are no guidelines for how to handle elections for a 1-year replacement term vs. a regular 2-year term

I.D.2. would change from:

Regular election of Senators shall take place within two weeks after the end of Spring Break each year. The voting period shall be established by the Awards/Bylaws/Election Committee and reported to the Senate no later than the regular February Senate meeting. The voting period shall last for no fewer than 4 business days.

to:

Regular election of Senators shall take place no later than three weeks prior to the final Senate meeting each academic year. The voting period shall be established by the Awards/Bylaws/Election Committee and reported to the Senate no later than the antepenultimate Senate meeting. The voting period shall last for no fewer than 4 business days.

I.D5. would change from:

In general, Senate vacancies in each electoral unit are filled in order of the number of votes each candidate receives from their electoral unit: the candidate with the largest number of votes is elected to fill the first

vacancy; the candidate with the second largest number of votes would be elected to fill a second vacancy; and so forth. However, candidates must receive votes from a majority of the participating voters to be elected.

Runoff elections can be triggered in two ways: (1) not enough candidates receive such a majority to fill all vacancies, or (2) more than enough candidates receive a majority of votes and an exact ordering of the winner cannot be determined because of tie votes.

In the case of a runoff, unelected candidates will be included in the runoff in the order of the number of votes received until there are more candidates included than there are vacancies remaining undecided. If two or more candidates receive the same number of votes, and at least one would need to be included in the runoff, all such candidates will be included.

The runoff election for the initial elections shall be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on one day and shall be conducted within one week of the regular election. Voting may be submitted electronically.

The results of the runoff shall be used to fill remaining vacancies using the same procedure as the initial election. However, should there still be seats undecided after the runoff election, all remaining vacancies will be filled by lot from the persons who were candidates in the runoff election.

to:

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If an election needs to fill one-year replacement term(s) in addition to the standard two-year term(s), one of the following two processes may be followed:

The standard ballots will be created. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes will assume the two-year term(s). The candidate(s) receiving the next-highest number of votes will assume the one-year term(s).

If, however, a nominee states that they wish to be considered solely for a one-year term, an additional ballot question will be created specifically designated as a one-year term. The aforementioned nominee will only appear in this ballot question, as will all other candidates. After the standard ballots are counted and all two-year terms are filled, the names of those newly elected Senators will be removed from consideration for the one-year term. Then the one-year term ballot question's votes will be counted.

In all cases, candidates must receive votes from a majority of the participating voters to be elected.

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14. For the good of the order

a. none

15. Motion to adjourn Senator Podolsky, all approve

a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:45

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate