

Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

Oct 17, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m.

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

Attendance: see table

	Aug 29	Sep t 26	Oct 17								
Mohammad Alhamad (Library)	x	x/z	x/z								
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	0	0	0								
Kelly Bezio (CLA)	x	x	x								
Fereshteh (Farri) Billot (COS)	x	x	x								
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	x	x	x								
Luis Espinoza (CONHS)	x	x	x/z								
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	x	x/z	x								
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	x	x	x								
Yu-Shan (Sandy) Huang (COB)	x/z	x/z	x/z								
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	x	x/z	0								
Taoran Ji (COE)	0	0	0								
Dimitrios Koutmas (COB)	x/z	0	x/z								
Timothy Scott Johnson (CLA)	x	x	x								
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	?										
Scott King (COE)	x	x/z	x/z								
Denise Lara (COEHD)	x	x	x								
Melissa Leal (CONHS)	x	x	0								

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

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

2. Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Rep Pattison second by Rep Bezio

a. Approved unanimously without abstentions

3. Approval of Sept minutes

a. Motion to approve minutes by Rep Omoruyi, second by Rep Metcalf  
i. Approved with corrections

4. Speakers Report: Speaker Johnson

Continued to meet with the Provost over ongoing concerns about shared governance on curriculum.

The Provost and John LaRue were able to give a specific presentation to the Anatomy and Physiology faculty about navigating SB412. It appears this meeting answered a lot of faculty questions and provided some useful guidance.

A TAMU System lawyer also presented on SB412 to deans and department heads. This hopefully will help clarify the law's requirements and keep everyone on the same page. In particular, one key takeaway from the meeting was that faculty with concerns about SB412's impact on their courses should seek out a faculty member within their department *and* one from outside their department to look over the reasonableness of their course materials. Because the penal code uses the category of reasonable adult as the barometer for suitability, doing this review with someone within your discipline and someone outside of it will show a faculty member's efforts to meet the reasonableness standard. The penal code sets incredibly high standards to find someone in violation of these laws regarding minors. If faculty wish to further protect themselves and their curriculum this review is a tangible and proactive step they can take.

I received word on Wednesday that TAMU System lawyers have reviewed our new constitution, new rule 12.04, and the bylaws changes we are voting on later today. We are officially the first system school to pass all of these reviews. There were some minor changes to our rule 12.04 governing Faculty Advisory Councils. There was one more substantive change. Originally, the document said all faculty were eligible to serve on the FAC. President's cabinet changed this to "full-time" faculty, excluding adjuncts from serving on the FAC. This reflects the practice of the previous Faculty Senate. However, there are institutions that have dedicated representative positions set aside for adjunct faculty. I communicated through Kevin Houlihan that a future FAC may ask to review this policy if adding adjunct representation is something that future FAC wishes to pursue.

There have not been any new submissions to our Qualtrics anonymous link—remember that those submissions do not have to be about negative things; they can also be about good things happening.

Faculty have asked about active shooter trainings on campus. There was one Thursday, October 6 in the UC. There was another one today, October 17 in the UC Oso 221, from 10-11am.

Last month, I received a request for old Fac Senate meeting minutes (from 2009 and 2010). These were previously saved on old Senate websites. But those websites no longer exist. I was able to pull archived versions of those websites to get those minutes, but the experience shed light on the weaknesses of our archiving practices. Over the rest of this year, I would like to set up a system with the library archives to deposit copies of our minutes for each meeting at the end of the academic year so we have them all in a centralized location that will act as a backstop against changes in websites or collaboration platforms like MS Teams.

There is a small update regarding the rumored A&M System review of courses. As of now, TAMUS has asked each campus to designate one liaison to provide and contextualize information for the course review. Our campus' liaison is Susan Murphy. I do not yet know what information will be requested, other than that the review is focused on core courses. During the Provost's update, we may get more information, but as of now this is all the information I have to share.

Taoran Ji (COE) stepping down, replacing him starting next meeting is Bozhen Liu, (COE)

Finally, I want to note some general tasks we still have ahead of us as we move through the academic year. First is the issue of term limits. We will have to figure out how to match our existing term limits with the new limits

outlined by SB37. Second is the FAC email address. We will need to work with IT to switch it from its “Faculty Senate” handle to a new one. Third is shirts. I will need to review our budget to assess feasibility of ordering new shirts that have the correct name on them. This might mean our budget takes a bigger hit, since: 1. Everyone will need a new shirt (whereas previously only about half of the senators needed a shirt in a given year); 2. With the new shortened term limits, we will likely need to order more shirts on a regular basis.

Guidance regarding recording classes: Texas is one party consent state, so TAMUS says we cannot prohibit students from recording. It is worthwhile to set up expectations regarding what students can do with the recording, since its intellectual property.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Reps Metcalf & Podolsky
  - i. Meet Oct 30 – actively reviewing
- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Rep Oldham
  - i. Minnie Stevens Piper award deadline Oct 10; will meet Monday, Oct 20 to send finalist to Academic Affairs
  - ii. Bylaws changes – see track changes document and summary of changes (below) in Teams folder

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO BYLAWS TO COMPLY WITH SB37**

THROUGHOUT: all references to “Senate” and “Senators” replaced with “Advisory Council” and “Representatives”

OTHER CHANGES (highlighted in Yellow):

- I. - added “and Presidential Appointments”
- I.A.2. - added “Appointed members are chosen by the University President”
- I.B.4 - added “Elected representatives have a term limit of a single two-year term. Presentially appointed representatives are appointed for a one-year term, with a term limit of six consecutive years. Any representative having reached a term limit will only be eligible for re-election or re-appointment after waiting two years.”
- I.C.6 - added “For Presentially appointed representatives, the FAC will advise the President by providing a list of faculty members who indicate their interest in appointment, derived from the annual faculty interest survey.”
- I.D.1 - added “for non-appointed positions”
- I.E.3 - added “Should an appointed seat become vacant, the President will appoint a replacement”
- I.E.5 - deleted in entirety, as elected senators are now limited to a single term
- II.A.1 - added “each appointed by the University President annually. The FAC may propose a recommended slate of leadership to the President via the procedures listed below.”
- II.B.1 - added “recommendations to the President”
- III.A.2 - added “This shall include interest in serving as a Presidential appointment to the FAC.”

Motion to vote by Rep Metcalf, Second by Rep Denise

Approved unanimously, no oppositions

- c. Budget Analysis – Rep Pecher & King
  - i. Met Oct 17 – main topic
- d. Committee on Committees – Rep Ricard
  - i. Have not met; waiting on Transportation Committee to complete committee charge prior to making appointment from FAC

- ii. Call for volunteers for 2 members to be appointed, let Rep Ricard know if you are interested

- e. Faculty Affairs – Rep Hadimlioglu

**This month, we are introducing one rule for review:**

**15.99.03.C1, Research Misconduct**

- Revised by R&I to align with updated regulation

- Key edits

- Renamed from Ethics in RSCA

- New roles of DO (Deciding Official), RIO (Research Integrity Officer), & ICO (Institutional Certifying Official) (sec 1)

- Updates based on new roles/titles

**This rule is placed in the General Advisory Council Teams folder for the October 17 meeting under the subfolder “Rule to Introduce.”**

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

- 11.09.99.C0.01, Low-Producing Minors and Certificates
- 12.99.01.C0.02, External Faculty Fellowships and Awards
- 13.99.99.C0.01, Course Examinations and Study Week
- 32.01.01.C0.01, Complaint and Appeal Process for Faculty Members
- 32.01.01.C0.02, Faculty Ombuds

**The committee reviewed the documents and offered comments on language, consistency, and ambiguities. We addressed issues concerning the readability of several sections, which have now been corrected. After clarifications, the committee unanimously approved the procedures. The changes and communication regarding the documents are included in our meeting folder. This concludes my report, and I would now like to call for a vote to approve the procedures presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee.**

Call for vote; Motion from FA, Second from Rep Metcalf

**Vote for all documents: approved unanimously**

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)*

**6. Liaison Reports**

- a. CPIRA - Rep Cruz-Milan

- a. Oct 17 meeting, discussion regarding 15 credit workload, does not change research expectations, but helps to better capture research time/workload; salary savings from grants discussed; approved a few bylaws changes (Faculty Senate to Faculty Advisory council)

- b. Undergrad Council – Rep Metcalf

- a. No report

- c. Graduate Council - Rep Podolsky (via zoom)

- a. Meets Oct 23; bylaws changes made

- d. AAUP (Ariel Kelly/Kelly Bezio)
  - a. Digital Safety handout is in Teams folder
  - b. Fear regarding syllabi and language
    - a. Consider trigger warning, working within departments and communities, which reflects community support
  - c. Chapter meeting is via zoom Oct 23, link will go out
  - d. AAUP membership includes support from community, help to answer questions, webinar and Q&A sessions, legal defense fund
    - a. Join local chapter, automatically become part of state chapter
- e. Expressive Activities Committee (Kelly Bezio)
  - a. Did not meet this month
  - b. SB 2972 – federal judge has temporarily blocked this law for limited expression on campus, specifically UT overnight ban
- f. Transportation Advisory Committee (Dale Pattison)
  - a. Increased stress due to construction
  - b. RTA rep to come to next meeting to discuss increased route times, later route times
  - c. Pass on ideas to alleviate parking stress to Dale Pattison
    - a. Suggest better lighting leading to bus stop

7. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Provost Cate Rudowsky
  - a. EPIC (used to be CLIMB) – week of Nov 10, sessions and agenda shared, these are in TEAMS folder, sessions for faculty and staff
    - a. Various topics will be available, information via Campus Announcements
  - b. Recordings and visitors in classroom – guidance as Speaker Johnson mentioned; consider if you have things in syllabi that might draw attention to course; faculty also have right to record (if something taken out of context, you have the full context available); visitors in classroom – Catalog statement to be added which gives control to faculty to allow or not allow visitors in different circumstances. If there is someone in classroom that is not allowed, request them to leave then call UPD
  - c. Volunteer in labs – meeting upcoming with Provost, compliance, HR Oct 30, hope to have update at next FAC meeting
  - d. A&M audit- liaison on our campus is Susan Wolfe Murphy, focusing on core courses
  - e. Syllabi software update – evaluated multiple products for syllabi templates, chose Simple Syllabus software, goal is to introduce in early spring and implement summer. Hope this will help with compliance with the syllabi required statements, calendar & other items. Goal is to have required information auto populate with these required items. Faculty will still add course information. There will be a new platform to learn with this. Simple Syllabus will archive. Discussion regarding potential issues.
- b. Ombuds Deborah Sibilia (ombuds)
  - a. Nothing to report
- c. Staff Council – Joseph Doan
  - a. Halloween Break in the Day Oct 31, 11-1; participation encouraged for costume, pumpkin/gourd carving contest – send questions to Staff Council
  - b. Islander Lights coming
- d. Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
  - a. CIO system – Ch 1 Bankruptcy for BB anthology tools, may be a purchaser

- b. System maps – these help map processes and navigate changes, hope resolution soon, discussion regarding Canvas start and end dates and how that affects students
- c. AI for system – still waiting on this

8. Old Business

- a. none

9. New Business

- a. H1B visa questions discussed

10. For the good of the order

11. Motion to adjourn by Senator Pecher, Second Senator Metcalf; all approve

- a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:40 pm

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary Faculty Senate/Advisory Council