

Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

Nov 21, 2025

2:00 -4:00 p.m. , IH 323

1. Meeting was called to order @ 2:06 pm

Attendance: see table

	Aug 29	Sep t 26	Oct 17	Nov 21							
Mohammad Alhamad (Library)	x	x/z	x/z	x							
Mara Barbosa (CLA)	0	0	0								
Kelly Bezio (CLA)	x	x	x	x							
Fereshteh (Farri) Billot (COS)	x	x	x	x/z							
Susan DeGhize (SAMC)	x	x	x	x							
Luis Espinoza (CONHS)	x	x	x/z	x/z							
Alihan Hadimlioglu (COE)	x	x/z	x	x							
Catherine Harrel (CONHS)	x	x	x	x							
Yu-Shan (Sandy) Huang (COB)	x/z	x/z	x/z	x/z							
James Ikonomopoulos (COEHD)	x	x/z	0	0							
Taoran Ji (COE)	0	0	0								
Dimitrios Koutmas (COB)	x/z	0	x/z	0							
Timothy Scott Johnson (CLA)	x	x	x	x							
Ahmed Kamara (COB)	?			0							
Scott King (COE)	x	x/z	x/z	x/z							
Denise Lara (COEHD)	x	x	x								
Melissa Leal (CONHS)	x	x	0	x/z							

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

Others: Cate Rudowsky, Kevin Houlihan, 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 Podolosky second by Rep Pattison
 - a. Approved unanimously with change to move Provost update up to after committee reports
3. Approval of Oct minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Rep Podolsky, second by Rep McKnight
 - i. Approved unanimously
4. Speakers Report: Speaker Johnson

Since our October meeting, I have attended to ongoing matters and begun to address new matters arising.

In the category of old/ongoing matters: I sat down with Shay to look over our

current year's budget with the aim of figuring out how feasible it will be to order FAC shirts to replace old Faculty Senate shirts. If we continue with the current catering orders for each meeting, then we will have approximately \$600 to spend on shirts. Shay and I will begin to get some quotes on prices. To get a quote we might need to know approximately how many shirts of each size we'll need, so be on the lookout in the next couple of weeks for a survey asking your preferred shirt size. If need be, we can always cut back on catering orders to make sure we have enough funds available. This, ideally, should be a one-semester problem. So long as we are not required to change names again, we should not need to continually purchase new shirts for every FAC member. In the same category of branding, I have requested IT change our Faculty.Senate email account to Faculty.Council. So far, they have added a "Faculty Council" alias to the account. I have responded that this is a good step, but we need the whole name to change. Last week, I also met with other A&M faculty leaders to discuss SB37 implementation. We're still in good shape. Other system schools are still in the process of getting things up and running. Finally, I received word last week from Provost Rudowsky that we will continue our practice of hooding doctoral students on stage during graduation. We also have additional clarity on the status of student volunteers in lab settings. Students can volunteer in labs, so long as they complete the Volunteer Waiver Form. So long as students fill this out once, they should be covered while they remain enrolled in their program. They should not need to do this every semester.

Onto the category of new issues: In October, I spoke with President Miller about the need to standardize faculty mentoring for new faculty hires. Some departments and programs have peer mentor practices in place. Others do not. Especially as we continue to recruit new faculty in our push to R1 status, we need to make sure we're setting up our new peers with access to the resources and knowledge they need to be successful. On a related note, I will be joining others on campus December 10 to discuss cross-campus research mentoring. I received two new submissions to our anonymous Qualtrics link. One was about Workday. A recent Workday update removed the easy-access link to see your most recent paystub. This is something that we cannot control. However, you can still access your paystub by navigating to the menu and then selecting "pay" from the dropdown menu. The second one concerned experiences with aggressive Christian groups in the breezeway. I brought this up with Provost Rudowsky. Her advice is to notify the Office of the Dean of Students if you encounter issues with student groups.

The new issue of the biggest import to all of us has to do with the changes required by the Board of Regents at their meeting last week. You should all have received Chancellor Hegar's statement on the changes, which went out last Friday. These changes alter system policies on academic freedom and increased oversight on undergraduate course content. I would like to address this in two ways, which might seem to pull in different directions. Hopefully these remarks don't come off as contradictory. First, the regents' actions are a clear infringement on all of our academic freedom. While some might choose to frame these developments with a silver lining, no spin can change the fact that our regents are questioning our experience, expertise, and freedom to teach.

These actions fundamentally undermine the validity of academic practices and authority. The regents have no business telling us as subject matter experts what we should teach in our areas of expertise or how we should teach it. The second point I would like to make is that the announced review of materials is currently under way. I am under the impression that the review for this semester will be finished by the end of the year. The Office of the Provost is feeding this semester's UG syllabuses into proprietary AI software. Syllabuses that get flagged will then come back to our campus for further review. Until we see the result of this review, we will not know what impact this review will have on any of our courses, syllabuses, or materials. While I would hope that no one would compromise their teaching in any way, I ask that you convey to your colleagues that it would be premature to change anything. Because we do not yet know whether this review will turn up anything, there is no reason to try to anticipate orders or guidelines that do not yet exist. Finally, as part of those changes at the Regents' meeting, our campus will have to revise our policies on expressive activities. We will do our best to work on the best policies possible, but we should not ignore the fact that we are being dealt worse and worse hands.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Reps Metcalf & Podolsky
 - i. Met this week and reviewed multiple course offerings which were all approved
 - ii. Meet again in December
- b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Rep Oldham
 - i. Regents Professor – Dr Mary Thorton, Dept of Music
 - ii. Minnie Stevens Piper award finalist (state competition, we recommend a finalist) – Dr Kim Withers, Life Sciences
 - iii. Faculty excellence award nominations submitted, will be reviewing
- c. Budget Analysis – Rep Pecher & King
 - i. Met last week; Current budget is published, pdf files shared with committee, will need to review previous budgets for comparison
 - ii. Cannot get access to developing budget for next year
 - iii. Meeting every month
- d. Committee on Committees – Rep Ricard
 - i. Need member to join subcommittee for Transportation Committee, let Rep Ricard know if you are interested
 - a. Memo

The Transportation Advisory Committee has recently added the Parking Appeals Subcommittee to its umbrella

This subcommittee needs one (1) appointed representative from the Faculty Advisory Council on the subcommittee. *Although a second individual may be identified as an alternate to serve when the official appointed person is not available for a meeting.*

The purpose of the Parking Appeals Subcommittee is to review and decide on parking appeals received throughout the semester. The subcommittee representative should not be the same representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Please let me know if you are willing and able to serve on this subcommittee.

If you have any interests, questions or concerns about this opportunity, please contact Mr. Ryan Butler, Director of Operations University Auxiliaries at: Ryan.butler@tamucc.edu o: 361.825.2784

- ii. Faculty Satisfaction survey set to go out on Monday, Nov 24 @ 8:02 am, responses will be anonymous

e. Faculty Affairs – Rep Hadimlioglu

This month, we are informed regarding updates on some of the earlier approved rules and procedures. These are as follows:

- **12.99.01.C0.01, Faculty Development Leave**

- o We became aware of the need for additional export control review for leaves over 60 days (which would incur a review cost). Details of this review were added to sections 1.4 and 5.2.

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

- o This was approved by FAC on 5/9/25
- o While at OGC for final approval, the regulation was revised again.
- o The OGC attorney revised our submitted rule to address the new requirements.
 - Removed travel from the general prohibitions section (sec 1.2.5)
 - Added section on travel to Countries of Concern (sec 1.4)
 - Added section on gifts from a foreign adversary (sec 1.5)
 - Document submission due date changed from 20 business in advance of when a decision is needed to 20 days in advance of the activity start date (sec 3.5)
 - Removed RSO & OGC review details covered in regulation (sec 3.8, 3.9, & 3.12)
 - Reporting section removed as redundant (sec 5)
 - Removed “federal punitive consequences” from non-compliance statement (sec 5.4)
 - Clerical edits to remove redundant language throughout

The rule and procedure will not be reviewed again by the Faculty Affairs Committee; this is for information only.

The Faculty Affairs Committee will review an Emeritus nomination case. The CLA Awards Committee has declined to support the nomination, while the dean supported it with reservations. Therefore, the Faculty Affairs Committee must review the case and provide a recommendation.

From Procedure 31.08.01.c1:

4.8.1. The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate will review all applications where the academic unit dean/director and/or committee and the provost are not in agreement on a nominee’s recommendation, or at the provost’s request.

4.8.2. The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate will provide their recommendation to the provost for consideration prior to the provost’s final recommendation to the president.

Furthermore, due to ambiguities surrounding the reapplication process, an excerpt will be drafted to potentially incorporate into the emeritus rule.

The Faculty Affairs Committee has completed the review of the following rule:

• **15.99.03.C1, Research Misconduct**

The committee reviewed the documents and offered comments on language, consistency, and ambiguities. We addressed issues concerning the readability of several sections, recommended minor clerical edits, and improvements in clarity. After clarifications, the committee unanimously approved the rule. The changes and communication regarding the document 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.

Vote: All approved, no abstentions

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. Nov 20 meeting, discussion regarding AI initiative in College Station for access to system universities; AI committee at TAMUCC working with College Station guidelines
 - b. Members expressed concern with review of courses, asking for more detailed information
- b. Undergrad Council – Rep Metcalf
 - a. No report, see Academic Affairs notes
- c. Graduate Council - Rep Podolsky
 - a. Met Nov 20, DLAI committee, law in effect April
 - b. Non thesis committee not tracked by university, seeking clarification
 - c. Question on grad faculty status – One drive versus teams; will open to full committee
 - d. Next meeting Dec 9
- d. AAUP (Ariel Kelly/Kelly Bezio)
 - a. Recent report loaded to Teams regarding SB 37
 - b. 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. Not met, next meeting Dec 5

7. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Provost Cate Rudowsky
 - a. Attending system meeting at 3 pm
 - b. Course review process -BOR requested 2 files– one for all syllabi for fall semester from Banner and one with catalog & course descriptions; system which will run AI looking for key words and if course descriptions match learning objectives, courses flagged will be returned to campus to review, prediction 1% flagged, will not be cease & desist, but review and discussion if content appropriate, then will return to CEO for approval/endorsement

- a. Pilot at Tarleton
 - b. There is a rubric being developed
 - c. Short timeline for process – due Dec 5, expect return early January
 - d. Vice Chancellor sent out information to all campuses
 - e. Students referred to ethics points
- c. Expressive activities – law changed, our changes edited in response to that, we have 6 months to get our policies edited; parameters around activities being challenged, ongoing litigation in UT & Dallas systems could impact outcome
- d. AWL (Alternate Work Locations)– lot of misunderstanding, have received clarification, only AWL for part of teaching & office hours – not course prep, teaching, research, if you are in location where there is an affiliation agreement
- e. No news on merit
- f. H1B – template updated, faculty letters will have statement if you need visa and its cost prohibitive offer may be rescinded, don't want to remove people from pool prematurely
- g. No more room shopping, can do approvals for exemptions for faculty teaching back to back classes and moving to a different rooms; process evolving
- h. Will continue hoodings on stage
- b. Ombuds Deborah Sibilia (ombuds)
 - a. Uptick in number of calls at end of semester, expect increased numbers after evaluation time
 - b. Need for training for first line supervisors dealing with faculty
- c. Staff Council – Joseph Doan
 - a. Elections coming
 - b. Islander Lights tonight – please attend
- d. Chief Information Officer Ben Soto
 - a. Not present
- 8. Old Business
 - a. none
- 9. New Business
 - a. Revisiting 31.08.01.c1 Faculty and Staff Emeritus, particularly looking at circumstances for awarding status
 - b. Representatives' terms and turnover
 - i. TEAMS folder contains Representative chart for when terms end; start thinking about elections in spring; if term ends in spring 2-year hiatus will begin; those highlighted are those that are presidential appointees – if you wish to remain then indicate that on the faculty interest survey
 - c. Discussion regarding room assignments – registrar testing AI optimizer, know there are issues and are working to improve as we go on, adding more information inputs
 - d. Chair training discussed, looking at ideas regarding structure
- 10. For the good of the order
 - a. Many campus ensembles will be performing around campus tonight
- 11. Motion to adjourn by Senator Pecher, Second Senator Metcalf; all approve
 - a. Meeting adjourned @ 3:40 pm

Submitted by Cathy Harrel

Secretary, Faculty Advisory Council