

Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 5, 2021  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
MINUTES

WebEx Link:

<https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m8ec8ab391a68794d39ded14ef281e52e>

**In Attendance:** Abigail Montañez-Rodríguez, Aida Almanza, Alice Liu, Amanda Lindner, Amber, Graham, April Najjaj, Brandon Earwood, Bryan Bayles, Cynthia Matson, Daniel Delgado, Esther Garza, Eun Kwon, Gene Morales, Gilbert Barrera, Hoyt Garner, Hsiao-Ping Wu, Jackson Ayres, Jacob Hardy, James Finley, Jimena Guerra, Jody Moody, Joseph Simpson, Karen Burgard, Karen Kohler, Keming Li, Kimberly Grotewold, Leonard Love, Lizbett Tinoco, Marcos Del Hierro, María V. Acevedo-Aquino, Malin Lilley, Mariya Davis, Matthew Mangum, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Michael Boucher, Michael O'Brien, Pablo Calafiore, Pride Abongwa, Robert Alonzo, Sabina de Vries, Sandra Lara, Sarah Katz, Sarah Pollock, Sonya Eddy, Tamara Hinojosa, Theresa Garfield, Ummugul Bulut, Vincent Creazzo, Whitney Brown, Zechun Cao

**Meeting Called to Order at 11:31am**

Approval of Minutes: Joseph Simpson called to vote on approval of the minutes.

- Yes: 18
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

**Administrative Updates**

a. Provost

- Research federal state opportunities: 4.4 million in external awards.
- Ten million ahead of other campuses.
- Incoming freshmen seem better prepared.

b. President

- President's Report (attached to meeting invite)
- Earlier visit of the Secretary of Education to Gus García and ASPIRE. Secretary spoke to students in multiple languages.
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio received the [Seal of Excelencia](#) from [Excelencia in Education](#), given to 10 exemplar higher education institutions nationwide.
- Strategic Communication Task Force: New committee created to assess and reestablish TAMUSA's practices around communication. The committee is expected to complete its tasks in last 6-9 months.
- Legislative Update
  - [SB 52](#) - Texas A&M University-San Antonio: \$45 million for a building to house public health and education programs, with high-tech classrooms and labs the campus' first teaching auditorium.
  - SB 95 – Special funding to support “at risk” students.

- Health initiatives
  - Health Advisory Committee

Fall Commencement, by Abigail Montañez-Rodríguez

- Saturday, Dec. 18
  - College of Ed. & Human Development: 10:00am - 100+ graduates confirmed
  - College of Arts & Sciences: 2:00pm - 178 graduates confirmed
- Sunday, Dec. 19
  - College of Business: 2:00pm – 150 graduates confirmed

The events will take place in two places: Inside and outside of the auditorium. Each graduate will be able to bring up to ten guests. The auditorium will be dedicated to graduates and faculty. Guests will watch the ceremonies from outdoor designated spaces on campus. An outside ceremony will be available for graduates who wish to walk across an outdoor stage that families will be able to attend.

- Name readers are needed for both, indoor and outdoor ceremonies.

Graduate Council Survey, by Theresa Garfield

- Theresa Garfield presented statistical and qualitative data from survey completed by faculty regarding how Graduate Studies is structured at TAMUSA.
  - Over 65% of respondents indicated that Graduate Studies should operate in Academic Affairs to receive the greatest benefit for faculty and staff.

### **Old Business**

1. Update Evaluation of Chairs and Deans ad hoc committee, by Megan Wise de Valdez

The committee met twice since October 1<sup>st</sup>. Members are working on a draft that will include five domains: 1) Communication, 2) Collegiality, 3) Leadership of units, 4) Faculty coaching and mentorship, and 5) Shared governance and faculty advocacy. The draft will be sent to the faculty prior to the next faculty senate meeting. The committee will also work on procedures to address questions like: What does the instrument mean? and How will it be used?

2. Faculty Handbook Draft Feedback, by Matthew Mangum

The committee updated the handbook throughout, particularly the areas of the mission statement and professional vs tenure tracks. The committee didn't create new policies.

During the discussion, the faculty raised questions and comments around:

- Timeline for tenure track
- Add language to guide faculty to programs' and departments' T&P guidelines and procedures
- Add language around the importance of faculty expertise in T&P processes
- Workload on graduate vs undergraduate courses: [12.03.99.01 Faculty Workload \(Reviewed May 10, 2019\)](#) 1.3.2 For purposes of computing workload credit, one semester credit hour of graduate instruction will be considered the equivalent of one and one-half semester credit hours of undergraduate instruction (i.e., a three-semester credit

hour graduate class is equivalent to four- and one-half semester credit hour workload credit)

- Invitation to Faculty Senate to elaborate policies for Adjuncts and Visiting Professors.

### **New Business**

#### 1. Informal Discussion on Bilingual Education Program

Myriam Jimena Guerra and Esther Garza explained that the Bilingual program, which has existed in TAMUSA at least prior to 2010, will be phasing out and becoming supplemental to the C&I department. Starting January 2022, no more students will be admitted into the Bilingual program. The decision of phasing out the program was informed without input from the faculty in a 30-minutes meeting on October 29, where administrative staff from COEHD: 1) described the phasing out process, 2) requested a decision from each Bilingual faculty to either transition to C&I or stay in the ELP department until all bilingual courses phased out, and 3) provided the bilingual faculty with 3-minutes for questions.

Daniel Delgado motioned to extend the faculty senate meeting ten minutes. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion:

- Yes: 17
- No: 1
- Abstain: 0

During the open discussion, the faculty raised comments and questions around:

- This probably being the first time the university phases out a program
- The faculty has worked on introducing a new degree plan for undergraduate and graduate students. These proposals were not approved by the department chair, and feedback was not provided to revise these. As such, the proposals were never submitted to the Curriculum committee.
- Lack of shared governance; lack of faculty voice
- Access to evidence supporting the decision to phase out the program. No evidence has been provided to justify the changes to the Bilingual program.
- James Finley motioned to create a committee to investigate changes to the bilingual program and to call for a moratorium of 30 days to stop changes to the program from moving forward, and for the committee to investigate what has happened. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.
  - Daniel Delgado amended the motion to 60 days.
  - Megan Wise de Valdez explained that 60 days could affect the Spring semester.
  - Leonard Love amended the motion for the moratorium to last until 1 day after the next faculty senate meeting.
  - Daniel Delgado withdrew his amendment.
  - Leonard Love amended the motion to suggest a Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee.
  - James Finley accepted Leonard Love's amendments.

Daniel Delgado motioned to extend the faculty senate meeting 10 minutes. Matthew Mangum seconded the motion:

- Yes: 15
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

The discussion continued to include the following:

- The committee should include 3 senators. No outside representation. Bilingual faculty should not be part of the committee to avoid potential conflict of interest and/or retaliation against faculty, and to maintain transparency in the process.
- This Ad Hoc committee should interview all faculty from the Bilingual program, as well as deans, chairs, and members of the curriculum committees (College and University level).
- James Finley volunteered to be the chair of the committee.
- Revised motion: To create a Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee to investigate changes to the bilingual program and to call for a moratorium of 30 days to stop further actions and changes to the bilingual program until 1 day after the next faculty meeting (December 3, 2021).
  - Yes: 15
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 4

The meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.