

Faculty Senate Special Session Meeting

September 24, 2021

12:30 am - 1:30pm

MINUTES

*WebEx Link:* [https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?](https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m8ee8a1067083cfe462dc6f4395e5adad)

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**In Attendance:** Aida Almanza, Akhtar Lodgher, Alice Liu, Amy Barrios, Amy Porter, April Najjaj, Armando Tejada, Brandon Earwood, Bryan Bayles, Claire Nolasco, Cynthia Matson, Daniel Delgado, David Brooks, Denise Trevino, Elizabeth Hasseler, Esther Garza, Eun Kwon, Francis Galan, Gilbert Barrera, Ho Huynh, Jackson Ayres, Jacob Hardy, Jacquelyn Traeger, Jenny Moore, Jeremy Zuni, Jimena Guerra, John Scott, Jongil Lim, Joseph Simpson, Karen Kohler, Katherine Bridgman, Keming Li, Kimberly Grotewold, Leonard Love, Leslie Stapleton, Linda Dietzmann, Lizbett Tinoco, Marcos Del Hierro, Marcus Palmer, María V. Acevedo-Aquino, Matthew Mangum, Matthew McCluskey, Md Rahman, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Paula Garcia, Pride Abongwa, Pru Morris, Qi Han, Ricardo Gomez, Sabina de Vries, Samuel Garcia, Sandra Lara, Sandy DeGrasssi, Sarah Katz, Syed Harun, Tamara Hinojosa, Theresa Garfield, Thomas Beaumont, Tywain Griffen, Ummugul Bulut, Vicky Elias, Vincent Creazzo, Wanda Leal, William Alley, William Kiser, Zechun Cao

**Meeting called to order at 12:31pm.**

Approval of Minutes: Joseph Simpson motioned to approve the minutes as corrected: (Two corrections, last name Bridgman, and adjourned meeting time 12:54pm)

- Yes: 20
- No: 0
- Abstain: 2

Administrative Update

- President Matson
  - State of grief due to serious loss in construction accident: one fatality and one individual in critical conditions expected to survive. On Monday, the President will join a moment of silence at the construction site. The campus flag will be lowered half-mast; An invitation to lead with love and grace.
  - The fall on-campus graduation will be held on Dec. 18th and 19th. Three different ceremonies could be expected. Further details will be announced on Oct. 1st.
  - The President congratulated Daniel Delgado on his recent participation at a panel on The Source of TPR titled: Latinx, Hispanic, Chicano/a: How and Why do People Self Identify?
  - Invitation to participate in the various events of the Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Provost Search Committee: The composition of the committee is intended to cast a wide range of voices. A national search executive firm will be hired from a list

approved by the A&M System. The goal is to fill the committee positions by October 1st. The President described each position:

- Three (3) at large positions selected by the President
  - Co-Chairs (The President explained that it has been her practice to appoint these positions, particularly, since the future Provost will report to her).
  - 1 person at large selected by the President (This is not a third chair. The President will make her selection after the rest of the positions are filled to represent any gaps in voices)
- Five (5) faculty representatives selected by the Academic Senate as follows:
  - Three (3) FT Tenure-track faculty, 1 per College
  - 1 FT Librarian
  - 1 Professional Track Faculty
- Three (3) Faculty representatives selected at large, 1 per college using a consultative process between each respective Dean and the faculty
- Two (2) permanent staff members randomly selected from within the Division of Academic Affairs.
- One department Chair selected by the Chairs
- One (1) staff member selected by the Staff Council
- One (1) student selected by the SGA
- One (1) Human Resource Representative, ex-officio non-voting
- One (1) Staff as recruitment and operational support for the committee, non-voting
- Daniel Delgado asked for clarity on the hiring process. The President described some of the practices she has utilized in previous searches, including: occasionally seating in search committee meetings, being informed of the candidates who will be phone interviewed and those who move to a second round of interviews, Typically, she also meets with the three final candidates. She makes the final decision. All campus interviews should be scheduled when faculty, staff, and administration are on campus.

- Graduate Studies
  - The President stated that all graduate academic programs belong to faculty, chairs, and deans.
  - Graduate enrollment decreased to only 493 new graduate students. The university has lost \$2 millions in formula funding.

The President left the meeting at 12:58pm

### Special Session Business

1. Provost Search Committee Composition- Note: This discussion includes written messages in the Webex chat. These are in italics.
  - Scott Gage: *Joe, were you and/or Senate EC consulted on the selection of the search committee's co-chairs? No*
  - Scott Gage: *The chairs of the committee should be elected by the members of the committee. The selection of co-chairs is a violation of shared governance because President Matson did not consult with Senate.*
  - Katherine Bridgman: *Would like to suggest that we request more information that would include the following topics and time to allotted for FS to provide a response: recruiting form and record, process of committee, specification of the "consultative process" at the college level.*
  - David Brooks: *Does the firm understand the mission and vision of TAMUSA versus TAMU?*
  - Jimena Guerra: *This committee won't include a 'tenure-track' faculty? Representation matters!*
  - Akhtar Lodgher: *How was the executive firm selected? We don't know*
  - Daniel Delgado: *The committee will need to push the executive firm to be transparent about their process, particularly around including and excluding candidates.*
  - Gilbert Barrera: *On track record, how long have the people selected using an executive firm been in office? We don't know*
2. Resolution for Professional Track Representation on Provost Search Committee.
  - Matthew Mangum withdrew resolution since there is a position on the current committee composition: 1 Professional Track Faculty
3. Resolution to Maintain Shared Governance in Provost Selection
  - Daniel Delgado read resolution and motioned to discuss resolution. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.
  - The faculty discussed the university definitions for visiting faculty, and professional track faculty. Professional track contracts have been recently

reduced to 1-2 years. They also suggested one of the co-chairs of the search committee to be a faculty.

- Matthew Mangum motioned to amend the fourth bullet of the resolution to read: The President will appoint two co-chairs, one of whom will be a tenured faculty member who does not have administrative or supervisory duty over other faculty members. Daniel Delgado accepted the amendment.
- Vote on resolution as amended:
  - Yes: 22
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0

Matthew Mangum motioned to extend the meeting 10 minutes. Katherine Bridgman seconded.

- Yes: 18
- No: 2
- Abstain: 0

4. Graduate Council Statement on Removal of the Office of Graduate Studies from the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs

- Katherine Bridgman read the statement.

5. Resolution to Support Graduate Statement of the Removal of the Office of Graduate Studies from the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs

- Katherine Bridgman read the resolution and motioned to discuss it. Leonard Love seconded the motion.
- Faculty discussed the importance of shared governance and how the lack of transparency in the process could affect the university's ability hire a good Provost. Md Rahman explained that separating Graduate Studies from Research is cost ineffective for the university.
- Joe Simpson called to vote on the resolution as read:
  - Yes: 15
  - No: 2
  - Abstain: 3

6. Announcements:

- Graduate Council will send an anonymous survey to faculty in the near future.

- The FS Executive Committee will meet with the Chancellor on Oct. 1. Please send comments and questions that you would like the Chancellor to address.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44pm.