

FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

FRIDAY, September 4, 2026

12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

STEM 161

Attendees: Sonya Eddy, Bill Bush, Berenice de la Cruz, President Ochoa, Interim Provost Feakes, Danny Malone, Michael Mary, Eve Lee, Donna Lehman, Lika Polk, Adam Martinez, Dan Braaten, Elizabeth Borda, Mariya Davis, Hsao Ping Wu (alternate for Miriam Jimena Guerra) David Brooks, Merritt Rhen Debraal, Kun Gou, Tony Liang, Danielle Fenimore, Gary Coulton, Yvette Chairez, Jesus Jimenez, Temo Luna Nevarez, Buch Miller, Robert Vinajam Butch Miller, Kelly Fouts,

Not in attendance: Gilian Rodriquez, Alan Daniel

OPEN SESSION

- A. Call to order 12:04 pm
- B. Approval of May FAC Minutes: **Discussion:** because presiding officer is also a representative of their department. They get a vote to have 2 votes per department. **Motion:** Merritt Rhen DeBaal **Second:** Danny Malone **Vote:** 21 **Passed**
- C. Administrative Updates—Interim Provost Feakes (Begin 12:04 end 12:36)
 - A. Core Curriculum Updates – Background 0801 system policy – there were classes that were taken out of the core – WGST 2310 and PHIL 2307 which turned into 3307. They were removed from the core not the catalog. The Core Curriculum committee was formed with representatives from each department and external reps. Met 3 times. Had 87 unique courses at TAMUSA. Received feedback. Took out a math class (trig class that no one was taking). Confirmed removal of the above-mentioned courses and rearranged a few courses for clarity. Feedback was about the syllabus and how the courses represent on the syllabus and we had a workshop about it before Fall. We are investing in a syllabus management system. Work on Student Learning Outcomes. There needs to be better alignment between the core courses and SLOS required by the Core. We will have workshops. Alignment over courses that are in prerequisites. TAMUSA submitted a report to the system, and it was requested and we look at what are “foundational” courses. We removed 12 courses from the core. The number of 76 courses included duplicate courses in each different component area. After removal of duplicates in 090 there were only 12 unique courses removed. Most of them are from Language Literature and Arts. There was already a discussion in the department. There is a document with the list. Many were painting, drawing, sculpture, and photography. (these were considered too specific), Intro to drama, fiction, lit, these were kept because they were broader. We removed Intro to visual studies, children’s literature. Craft of Sociology was removed. Honors 1300 was removed (university 1301 honors section) and the foundations of kinesiology was taken out. Board of Regents voted yesterday, and impacted departments have been contacted. Changes take place in 2027 and all students who are already enrolled are grandfathered in. We have 42 hours in the core. Some recommendations are to cut down the core to 30 hours. Discussion in the legislature will follow. If we go down to 30, we will need to restructure the core. Copies were distributed. None of the courses were removed from the curriculum.

National trend is to reduce the number of hours in the core. If the core shrinks to 30 then the grad requirement remains at 120. Restructuring may occur in the future.

- B. Procedures for Academic Dishonesty – system concern – Example was given regarding AI. If student disagrees goes to chair, if they disagree with chair, it goes to the Dean, and the Dean creates a committee. COAS, Education, and Business all have their versions of systems to handle academic dishonesty. We are trying to create a campus wide system. Chair first, and if it must go beyond the chair, then we will create a university wide committee who are trained to sit on this university wide committee. We are also creating a system to have a system where different people can be pulled into the committee to represent expertise in different disciplines. This is to ensure equal treatment.
- C. Policy Revision Goals – We have policies that don't make sense or are redundant. One Tenure and Promotion Policy, Annual Performance Review Policy, which we will separate and clarify. The third policy is the workload policy. Each one of the Deans serves as a Champion for each committee. FAC needs to recommend 2 people per committee to constitute each of the committees. We will clarify for both tenure track and professional faculty.
- D. Discussion/Feedback/Questions – no questions for interim provost Feakes.

President De La Cruz – Question for FAC – Do we want the Provost and President to remain in the meeting. Discussion: Provost is flexible. We will discuss this after the Provost and President and Provost will depart.

D. President Ochoa (Begin 12:26 pm end 1:04)

- A. Course Syllabus Review – summer was busy reviewing syllabi. COAS had 144 flagged syllabi. A form was created to provide guidance for faculty. President looked at form then syllabi. All 144 were supported by the president. Many clear arguments were made regarding professional standards. There was some disconnect between the syllabus and the course catalog. Most of the flags were mechanical in nature. The system will conduct a review each Fall. The President will defend each course if it gets flagged again. Shared governance is horizontal as well as vertical.
- B. Legislature updates – We are getting ready to go into a legislative session. Core curriculum is up for review; there is a committee. If they reduce the core we will need to have a healthy discussion about what we will do and we will need to come to a consensus. We are funded in several ways by the state legislature. 1) formula funding – they look at each discipline, and the number of hours is worth a certain number of dollars. Each SCH = dollars. Based on all our CH we get money from the state for the next 2 years. 2) Tuition – sometimes we have bad debt 3) enhancement funding which varies by institution. There were questions about how these decisions are made. There is a discussion about creating a system or procedure for determining who gets the money. The legislature is considering performance-based funding which is public on the website. Legislature is looking at progression, persistence, grad hours – and trying to create a system. The committee wants to keep SCH (lower it) and maybe get rid of enhancement and use performance based instead of enhancement. We are approaching this year fiscally cautiously. Please go to the Coordinating board website and look at the proposal. The provost has a copy if you need it. We will be asking the legislature for CCAP we are asking for a new 4 story building near the rec center as the health sciences building. We need more lab

space. It is a joint plea from the health center and TAMUSA. If we get it we will share the space. We are considering a clinic with the lab for psychology and ABA as well. We are asking for 10 million to start biomedical programs, electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Construction Engineering, down the road. We also need the staff and administration for these new programs. We would like to increase support to grow our foundation infrastructure so we can grow the core. We put forth the second doctoral program. – we are hopeful for funding and growth.

Discussions:(Began at 1:04 ended at 1:26 pm) **Question:** With the shift to performance-based model there is a relationship to a change in TNP. **President's answer:** No. It is all about student performance and student outcomes. **Question:** The future formula funding, tuition, and SCH. **President's Answer:** The governor has been asked to do inflation, critical, how can we be more efficient in what we do to use our money better. **Question:** Class sizes. **Provost's answer:** Some classes can grow and some should be kept small. There are different caps. Some are small and some are hands-on. Some are large because of the lecture style learning with limited interactive learning. Those are bigger. We need to have conversations on class sizes across the university and in different programs. There is some cleanup that needs to be done in the courseleaf. **Question:** Class sizes related to faculty workloads **Provost Answer:** teaching large classes are different than small classes. Doesn't favor a differential workload policy based on class sizes. We should instead ask for the resources to support faculty who teach in larger classes. Is: if an instructor is teaching larger class sizes they may need a grader, student worker, or graduate assistant. **Question:** Min is 15 students sor some disciplines it is difficult to make. Is it possible to make it lower. **Provost's Answer:** not possible to lower. Some of the majors are small, which is a different question. We must look at how many different classes we are offering in the same semester. Low enrolled courses are allowed to go through if we need to. We need to think about how to improve enrollment if we can. This is also important because of the 2-year rotation, we shouldn't have low enrollment forms, because we have committed to our students to hold these classes. **President's answer:** we look at the number of enrollments for the last 5 years, may need to change the timing of courses, etc. 2-year commitments need to be honored. Questions about number of sections, time offering, and semester offering. We should not cancel courses because they are low enrolled if students are counting on them. **Provost's Answer:** start with scheduling tactics. We can cap lower and then raise caps if need be. le see start with 2 courses at 10. Then add seats to each section to distribute the workload. Think about scheduling tactics to help with efficiency. We should discuss options. **Question:** about the course rotations that create time delays for students. **Provost's Answer:** yes, we need to have discussion about this so that we can create efficiency. Please let's have these meetings and conversations so that we clarify the rotations and class caps. **President's Answer:** please call on the president and the provost to have this discussion so that we can have policies in place. We want to prevent delays in graduation, but we might also need to change the schedule to help students who are off cycle. Discussion about the exceptions of the workload policy for the benefit of students.

E. FAC President (50mins)

- A. **Suggestion** to keep voting items in the first part of the meetings in case people need to leave.

- B. Introduction of New Members – new 2026-2027 FAC Roster – We have a FAC Council website. We have the membership there as well. We have 12 newly elected. Introductions all round.
- C. Review of Recent FAC Changes – moving forward we will have 2-year terms – the Roster is listed. **Sonya will send out an email with list. Please check the list. Check the website. And let her know if there are any changes.** If there are any changes please let us know. This is our second year, but it was not a full year. There are challenges. Consistency will be a challenge. We can recommend changes as needed to function well. Mission to facilitate meaning faculty participation in academic governance. Make a way for faculty to have a voice at the university. We need to bring their concerns to the group so we can have shared governance. Stading committees are part of what we have a part of: (bold are carry over- not bold are under consideration). **The committees are appointed. FAC leadership will talk with Provost and get a list of who is on these committees.**
 - A. **undergraduate curriculum (There is a list)**
 - B. **core curriculum (there is a list)**
 - C. **graduate council (Ting has a list of this)**
 - A. Tony Liang
 - D. faculty policies
 - E. procedures and advocacy
 - F. elections committee
 - G. bylaws committee – we have a draft – this needs to continue so that we can establish – Butch Danny, Emily, Stan this is the new committee)
 - H. promotion and tenure (by Laws)
 - I. faculty evaluation (by laws)
- D. Discussion of FAC Representative Responsibilities/Expectations
 - A. Department Meetings – Reports and Availability
- E. Dean Chairs Meetings – we think this has passed.
- F. Communications
 - A. Representation and Communications
 - B. FAC should meet one a month with Pres and Provost in the summer
 - C. Bi weekly meetings during the semester
 - D. Monthly meetings in the summer
 - E. We still need representation on these committees
- G. Graduate Council Meetings- Discussion
 - A. Need a representative
 - B. Must be grad faculty
 - C. Must attend monthly grad meeting
- H. Representation and Communications
 - A. There are established members –
 - B. Established bylaws are on the website
 - C. Looking at grad admission requirement, graduation, new grad degrees ne program, core requirements. We don't have an established way to vote people in.
 - D. We need an appointed position – how do we want it to happen.
- I. Train Traq Training – Texas EPP Compliance Attestation 2115145 - Bill Bush
- J. T&P Committee membership? – Berenice de la Cruz

K. Discussion and Action Item (20 minutes)

- H. Administration attendance at FAC Meetings
- I. Adjunct faculty parking relief – Alan Daniel
- J. Subcommittee – Amendments to Bylaws and Committee
 - A. Past Committee - bylaws committee – we have a draft – this needs to continue so that we can establish – Butch Danny, Emily, Stan this is the new committee)
 - B. This is a priority and we need to bring it forward
 - C. Evaluations Committee
 - A. Butch Miller and Kun Goa
 - D. PNT policy
 - A. Danny
 - E. Workload
 - A. Bill Bush and Danielle Fenimore
- K. Parliamentary – Purpose to make sure will follows the rules. Selected by the council and is part of the leadership group. Butch Miller will be the interim parliamentarian until we find a permanent one.
- L. Subcommittee- University Level Chair Policies
 - A. Have a draft – should been voted on in April 30
 - B. How do we want to proceed?

Next Meeting: First Friday in October 2nd STEM 161

ADJOURN 2:31 pm

** Asterisks indicate additional documents available as attachments to the calendar invite.*