FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

STEM 169

In attendance (FAC members): Matt Watson, Berenice de la Cruz, Karen Burgard, Eve Lee, Lisa Polk, Donna Lehman, Robert Vijana, Alice Liu (alternate), Sanikan Wattanawongwen, Michael Mary, Maria Acevedo-Aquino, Qi Han, Kun Gou, Emily Naasz, Danielle Fenimore, Alan Daniel, Mike O'Brien, Merritt Rehn-DeBraal, David Brooks, Elena Foulis (virtually), Danny Malone (virtually), Kandice Diaz (virtually)

Not in attendance (FAC members): Scott Gage, Rector Arya, Dennis Elam, Butch Miller, Myriam Jimena Guerra

In attendance (non-FAC members): None

In attendance (virtually on livestream non-FAC members): Alexandra Quintero Deleon, Pru Morris, Daniel Braaten, Kimberly Grotewold, and Ashley Teufel

OPEN SESSION

A. Call to order

B. Approval of February's and March's FAC Minutes
   - David Brooks moved to accept the February FAC minutes
   - Maria Acevedo-Aquino seconded
   - Vote – 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions
   - Merrit Rehn-DeBraal move to accept the March minutes with the addition of FAC members not in attendance to be included in both the March and February minutes.
   - Eve seconded
   - Vote – 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions
   - ***Please note that there were 17 members in attendance for the approval of the minutes vote. One additional member arrived after this vote was taken. Therefore, other subsequent FAC votes at this meeting have 18 votes cast.*

C. Administrative Updates—Provost Abdelrahman and President Ochoa (30 minutes)
   - Provost Abdelrahman Updates:
     - The Ed.D. degree was sent to SACSCOC in March. It needed to go to SACSCOC because it is a substantive change (our first doctoral degree). After this one gets approved, the other additional doctoral degrees will not have to go through this longer process (because we will already have a doctoral degree in place then). We will hear around June 11th or 12th about the final decision/approval.
     - Update on the VPR search – really good pool of candidates – President Ochoa appreciated the attendance at the candidates' presentation/open forums and the input from faculty and staff regarding the candidates. He hopes to make an offer soon and will announce to the entire campus when an offer has been accepted.
     - Assessment of administrators (Deans and Chairs) – this will go out soon. It will come Steve Taraszewski (Institutional Research) office. The President said he might be able to work on expanding the evaluation to include the Provost (or other VPs) in the future.

- SB37 08.01 – The AI review of courses – 10 sections/9 courses (one course had two sections); 7 courses were in A&S and the other 2 courses were in COEHD. Today (April 3, 2026) is the deadline for COEHD to provide their own internal review of courses identifying compliance with the legislation. This review includes ensuring that the description in the syllabus matches the course catalog description. It also includes a review of the course content (readings, assignments, etc.) to be in compliance with the legislation and the focus and purpose of the course. The department chairs will ask for approval of their courses or further review base don their course justifications. The President and Provost expect another 10 from College of Education that will have approximately another 10 that will need further review and approval (in addition to the two identified during the AI review) and A&S will have another 47 or so (in addition to the 7 identified during the AI review).
- SB37 – Review of Core Curriculum – every five years – committee comprised of 4 external members and 12 members on the committee total – First meeting a week ago and the entire group was engaged and participated in the discussion – There are certain criteria that the Coordinating Board focuses on (9 areas/guidelines for the courses) and then there is SB27 guidelines (fundamental need, workforce development, student success, related to future goals, application to the workforce, etc.). Through this review, we've found issues that need addressing. For example, courses that do not include the course catalog description, only an instructor's description, and having the course catalog description is a requirement. The President asked David (who is one of the committee members) to provide any other insight – David agreed but added that they also discussed wording clarification (defining the terms "syllabus" versus "class schedule", etc.). The President said that he and the Provost were looking into purchasing a syllabus management system, which will help to make our syllabi more standardized and easier to ensure all the required components are on each syllabus.

- President Ochoa Updates:
  - Several administrative searches going on right now:
    - VPR – Inaugural Vice President for Research – The committee provided input as did the faculty and staff who attended the presentation open forums – an offer will be made today or early next week to one candidate – the candidate's materials and packet will be sent to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor to review and then a week or so after that, an announcement will be made. The committee did its due diligence and worked hard to provide strong recommendations.
    - CIO – Robust search – the candidates have been screened and the committee is scheduling their first round of interviews
    - VPAA – The President will be appointing an interim Provost/VPAA. That position needs to be approved by the A&M Board of Regents. Other VP positions (like the new VPR) do not need to go through the Board but anything with the Provost (Provost, Vice Provost, Associate Provost, Interim Provost) needs to go to the whole A&M Board. That is designated under new state legislation. The President hopes to announce the Interim Provost within the next few weeks.
  - University Health – New relationship – internal discussions before (under NDA, legally nothing could be said about the possible partnership) – presented to the Board of Regents, and then to University Health Board in Feb., then it was announced to the public last week.
    - First year medical school coursework at A&M-College Station but A&M-SA is a choice they can pick when they are admitted (to complete their other years of their coursework). So, in years 2, 3, 4, and potentially residency, they can come

to San Antonio. So, Fall of 2027 – 15 second year medical students, then Fall of 2028 – 28 students, and then Fall of 2029, etc.

- New Medical School Faculty and Students Coming to Campus
    - 15 medical school faculty/professors and their dean coming to our campus. Many wonderful research opportunities—How can we collaborate with them? Second doctoral program –Genetics and Genomics Ph.D. – Can we leverage the relationship with the medical faculty to assist our faculty in shepherding that program? What other partnerships could stem from this addition to our campus? Hospital/VIDA Clinic—Service Learning courses? Public Health Research Institution right across the street. This is a win for everyone. Looking further down the road – maybe a shared building (A&M-SA and a medical school, biomedical sciences and healthcare administration, nursing program). These partnerships bring a lot of future possibilities. This brings many opportunities for local students who want to go to medical school but are limited to the local region. This gives them the opportunity to only be gone (from San Antonio area) for one year (their first year at College Station) and then come back for the rest of their program.
- Public Health and Education Building
    - Genetics and Genomics – moving in now (April) and College of Education and Human Development will move in in early June – Corinne will reach out to the College of Ed. Faculty on how that will all be organized and facilitated but we (university facilities) will provide the movers. Also, A&S is bursting at the seams so we need to figured out space across the entire campus, including this new building, and figure out where everyone is going to go.
- Q: Are the new medical faculty from College Station or A&M-SA employees?
  A: They are College Station employees and so CS will pay all the fees
- Q: Is the MOU between the medical school and us (A&M-SA) and the medical school and the hospital permanent and ongoing or for a limited time?
  A: (President) The one between the medical school and us is currently for 3 years (to use our facilities, etc.) but we are looking to expand that. The one with medical school and hospital will be permanent/ongoing but we are looking to create a further MOU that will be between us and University Health.
- Q: Are we ok with parking With everything increasing, including the addition of new programs, and now the new medical students, and the new buildings, are we still ok with parking space?
  A: (President) Yes, we are ok. We have more space that we can use for parking if needed.
- Q: Do we have an update on Educare?
  A: (President) Educare will open in August. I want to congratulate Dr. Emma Savage-Davis (College of Education and Human Development) with leading the project to its completion. People who have toured the facility have said, “I have never seen a facility like this.” It will be state of the art.
- Q: What happens if the Board of Regents does not approve of the Interim Provost selection?
  A: (President) I would be shocked if that happened. But if it did, then I would assume both roles until another Interim could be appointed. The Board meeting is May 22, 23, and 24. The Interim will be announced earlier than that with the statement, “pending board approval”. I will launch a national search for a new Provost. I will announce the names on the committee before the end of the semester. I hope to have them complete their work in the early fall so the name can go before the December (2026) or February

(2027) Board of Regents meeting. The person would begin their appointment for the start of next academic year.

D. * Reminder Update—Election for new FAC members (5 minutes)
   - College departments need to elect their new members so they can be invited to the May meeting
   - A reminder was given to everyone on FAC that approximately ½ of our elected body will need to be replaced. There was a discussion about will this new position be a one-year term or a two-year term. The three officers explained that there was only a need this first year (2025-2026) to have people with a one-year term just to start the staggering of people rolling off. Every election from here on out (including the election that needs to happen before April 15th) will be for two-year terms. Every newly elected FAC member will now serve a two-year term. And we will always have approximately ½ of the FAC rolling off each year. So, there are still ½ of the membership who have one more year left. Their terms will explain in 2027. These newly elected members will serve 2026-2028 and their terms will expire May 2028.
   - FAC needs the elections to happen now so the President can appoint the officer positions. Those officer positions (Presiding Office, Vice-Presiding Officer, and Secretary) are appointed by the President and come from the elected members.
   - The 3 Presidentially appointed college representatives to the FAC can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms (for a total of six years). So, those three positions can be reappointed if the President so chooses.
   - The newly elected members will be invited to the next (May) meeting but will be invited only as observers and will not be able to vote.
     - Q: What role do the Chairs and Deans play in this process? Do they "name" or "appoint" someone to serve? Sometimes, the Chairs would provide a list of all the faculty members' service committees and then appoint someone (or have an election) at the beginning of the academic year to serve on (the former) Faculty Senate. How are the elections being handled now?
       A: The Deans and Chairs don't even need to be part of the conversation at all. These positions are voted on by the faculty. If the faculty want the Chairs to assist in this and set up the Qualtrics, the departments can ask them to do that. But the Chairs should not be appointing this position. This needs to be faculty-led.
     - Q: So, each department is holding their own election? This is not a college-wide election? Not a university-wide election?
       A: Each department has two elected representatives (each serving two-year terms). So, the position you are electing is for your departmental representative.
       The three college representatives are appointed by the President. Those three are not elected positions. So, we should have 12 newly elected members (who will attend the May meeting as invited observers/guests) and then three additional Presidential Appointees college representatives who all start in August.
     - Q: Is there anyone next eligible (for example, Assoc. Chairs, non-full-time faculty, etc.).
       A: There are no specific guidelines stated as to eligibility, but historically Department Chairs have not be eligible and adjunct faculty have not been eligible. All other full-time faculty have been eligible to serve, including Associate Chairs as long as they do not serve in an evaluation or supervisory capacity over faculty members.

E. Discussion Item—Former Faculty Senate Task Forces' work and recommendations (10 minutes)

- The task forces from the former Faculty Senate are all gone. The last time any of them met was May 2025 and are not defunct as there is no longer any Faculty Senate. There are current Ad-Hoc committees (curriculum committees, etc.) who are still dong work but their work will end when the FAC creates and establishes the membership for their standing committees (in May).

F. Discussion and Action Item—Amendments to the FAC By-Laws (45 minutes)
  - Scott will chair the amendments to the by-laws ad-hoc committee. He will contact the members and set up a meeting to discuss possible amendments and they will present them at the May meeting. Things that need addressing:
    - The mention of a Parliamentarian—are we keeping that language? If so, we need to set up how the Parliamentarian will be selected/elected and what their term in that position will be.
    - Any changes still need to be within SB37 guidelines and be compliant.
    - Matt recommended an amendment that clarifies the term start and end dates of the members. Right now, they overlap which means we would not be in compliance with SB37 (of having fewer than 30 members). So, Matt recommended rewording this so it is clearer. The elections can happen in April but the new terms would not start until August 1st and the outgoing/rolling off members would stay on through July 31st.
    - The members of this ad-hoc committee are: Scott, Rector, Dennis, Danny, Elena, Butch, Kandice, and Myriam Jimena.
  - Karen moved to postpone the discussion and action items/voting on amendments to the FAC by-laws until the May meeting.
  - Danielle seconded.
  - Vote – 18 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions
    - Q: With the P&T guidelines being revised at the college level, what does that do to the annual faculty evaluations (at the department level)? Can we get clarification on that? Will the departmental annual evaluations change?
      A: We can get clarification on that from the Provost.

G. * Discussion and Action Item—Deans and Chairs Procedures Implementation (60 minutes)
  - Revisiting and possibly revising the previous implementation plan
  - Finalizing and voting on the plan and providing recommendations to the administration
  - We voted on this last May and it went to the Provost. The Provost actually asked for more guardrails. Not sure what has happened to it (the implementation plan) since last May. SB37 kind of blew everything up in terms of policies and procedures that the Faculty Senate was working on. The Officers will get clarification from the Provost at the next Officers meeting. The evaluation of Deans and Chairs (that will be sent out soon) is different from this. This is about the length of terms for Chairs, etc. (for example, two consecutive terms? Three?).

- David moved to adjourn the meeting
- Maria Acevedo-Aquino seconded.
- Vote – 18 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

ADJOURN

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