# Faculty Advisory Council

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 12:00PM – 3:00 PM | STC 231

Minutes for regular monthly meeting

**Guests**

Dr. Christopher Maynard, President

a. Programmatic Budget Review – Leadership Team in College Station, TX. The team did wonderful. University is in good financial shape for stability and continued growth. They presented to the Board of Regents for approval in May for the coming year; it is a biennial – this year is similar to the last.
b. University Level Searches – 4 hiring searches continuing with 3 near ending at the university level: 1) Vice President for Finance Administration, 2) Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and 3) Chief of Staff. Two of these need BoR approval. Mr. Maynard is confident about the candidates and talent that have appeared through these searches. Athletic director was a failed search but is going to restart soon with Mr. Garcia leading as chair.

Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

a. TAMUS Board of Regents & Tenure Consideration – Each university will be assigned a board Regent. This board Regent will review the tenure recommendations that are submitted by each university President. Preliminary reviews were conducted in late April with Vice Chancellor James Hallmark. This is a new process and will transpire every time there is a faculty recommendation for tenure. Regents may have feedback or questions that would be directed at the Provost; however, so far there were none for TAMIU.
b. Faculty Searches – There are guidelines posted on the Provost website for faculty searches. It is a shared responsibility between faculty and administrators. There is representation of faculty (3) for that expertise and within the area, an external member outside of the program from within the college. The faculty should be involved in the job description/ad. Once applications start coming in, faculty review and vet the applications to ~ 10 -15 applicants. The search committee decides on interviews whether virtual or phone. After that, the applicant pool is further reduced to recommend individuals who can be brought to campus. On campus, faculty interviews transpire and other faculty can get involved. Likewise, there are interviews by the Chair, Dean of the College, and by the Provost. Dr. San Miguel is reassuring that faculty voice is heard and considered. Faculty are the initial step in vetting the applicants and continue thru the chain. The Provost receives memos and

notes from the Deans, department Chairs, and the committee. While welcomed, the Provost considers other factors aside from the quality in the discipline such as the viability of the candidate for midpoint review or promotion and tenure, their research agenda and TAMIU's capacity to support it. Dr. Maynard added that it is a collective effort; however, there is additional information that hiring managers see that may influence the decision (i.e. background or reference checks). The goal is always the same, which is to get the best talent for your university to move the mission forward.

c. Administrative Burden – There are mandates and compliance issues that needed to be addressed as a university. Digital accessibility and reviewing PLOs and SLOs are examples that added to that additional burden. Additionally, review of the General Education, Core Curriculum, and WIN courses. Faculty were asked to review based on the legislative requirement but also to have current information to assist the community/external members who were on these committees better understand the outcomes who have recommendations and want some feedback. The other big administrative task is reviewing and considering the Core Curriculum. The information and hints (unverified) about core curriculum is that it may be truncated or reduced to less hours than the current amount. It has not been voted on (state) and it is not known what the new amount will be. This leads to whole programmatic assessment of the PLOs and SLOs considering the purpose, the benefit, and skills for workforce once they graduate. There has been discussion about this and will continue. These external and required mandates led to the additional tasks.

d. Side note: In consideration of these additional tasks and burden, Dr. Ari Gonzalez, Associate Provost, requested information from all department chairs and Deans about the list of duties that each coordinator, director, faculty representatives, etc. hold. Over the summer, they will review these duties to ensure equitable distribution of duties, roles, responsibilities, fair compensation, fair process and workload in accordance with their annual evaluation.

e. Commencement – Chancellor will be in attendance.

f. Questions – question about the tenure approval process. Question: Do we know what they are looking for or in the extra review? Dr. San Miguel responded that the President submits his recommendation with a summary of the research for the faculty member and their CV. They do not look at votes at any level. Follow up question: That won't change? Dr. San Miguel stated it might in the future, but currently that is what they reviewed for this cycle. Question 2: Clarification on the process: is it just 1 BoR or all of them that vote? Dr. Maynard clarified that 1) by state law only the Board of Regents can award tenure by vote, 2) it is no longer a consent agenda that is quickly reviewed. They have changed it to an action item, which calls for more thorough review. 2) Because of the volume of recommendations for 12 universities in the system, they have decided to distribute the recommendations and assign the regents to the universities for review. Each regent will then present and share their findings/compare notes with the other BoR members. Then, all BoR members vote. Research is a strong focus, they may be looking at the commonalities among research production. Dr. San Miguel also noted the a criminal background check was also required. Question: Is there any information on if the research review links to DEI or anti-DEI topics in the research. Dr. Maynard responded that it is the first time/cycle with this new process; not to their knowledge. Question: Will Dr. Maynard or a representative of TAMIU be at the Board of Regents meeting? Dr. Maynard stated that all board meetings are live streamed by law and the agendas are posted at least 7 days in advance. The President, Provost, and CFO typically go to all board meetings.

**In attendance:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| G. Clarke | A. Hillburn | C. Sosa | J. Hatcher |
| R. Lin | E. Morales | N. Garcia | C. Salazar-Collier |
| A. Addo-Mensah | T. Gorbunova | E. Garcia | G. Hubona |
| R. Arenaz | P. Neumann | J. Murumba (new) | G. Fan (new) |

**Call to Order 2026-2027 Faculty Advisory Council**

1. Called to order at 12:26 PM by Presiding Officer, Dr. George Clarke.
2. Introduction of new 2026-27 FAC members in attendance
   a. Gang Fan
   b. Joan Murumba
3. ~~Officer Elections: Parliamentarian~~ (By TAMIU SAP, we need to wait until the first Fall Meeting 2026).
4. Adjournment of the 2026-27 Faculty Advisory Council
   a. Adjourned at 12:34 PM

**Call to Order 2025-2026 Faculty Advisory Council**

1. Called to order at 12:35 PM by Presiding Officer, Dr. Geroge Clarke

**Quorum**

1. A quorum is present

**Approval of April Minutes**

1. Approval of April Minutes [Sosa]

a. No corrections or suggestions. Minutes approved and will be posted online.

**Acknowledgement of Service on Faculty Advisory Council**

1. A big thank you to all the faculty members who served this year 2025 – 2026 year. A service award/certificate was given to each faculty.

**Old Business**

1. Results from Survey for Increased Bureaucratic Burden on Faculty [Hilburn]
    a. There were 129 respondents.
    b. Reviewed the responses.
    c. Overall, negative and there are concerns. Communication and administrative or service burden are high. Faculty don't feel valued or feel their voice matters.
    d. Motion: To disseminate the Faculty Survey results in a tiered rollout (admin then faculty). Seconded; motion passed.
    e. Expectations for next steps to use this for change. Other committees can look into these to further discuss and provide suggestions.
2. Update on elections and appointments [Hatcher]
    a. Graduate Council at-large: P. Neumann & J. C. Lozano
    b. Honor Council – 3 spots: K. Houston, D. Blackwell, T. Gorbunova
    c. Some appointments not complete
    d. List will be provided once completed.
3. Ombuds Officer [Clarke]
    a. 1st nominee approved – in-person
    b. 2nd nomination – online
    c. Provost is requesting a few more candidates
    d. Qualifications:
        i. Tenured full-time faculty member.
        ii. Knowledge of university policies and resources
        iii. Extensive cross-campus experience
        iv. Strong communication skills

**New Business**

1. University Curriculum Committee [Sosa]
    a. A discrepancy exists between the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and the FAC Handbook about FAC representative in the UCC. Dr. San Miguel informed the Executive Committee that the previous Faculty Senate requested representation and voted to include a representative from the

Faculty Senate as an ex-officio. The committee on committees is charged with updating the description for the UCC, the FAC will vote, and then faculty at large will vote. The handbook committee will then revise the language in the handbook.

**Reports from Sub-Committees**

1. Academic Oversight [Hillburn]
   a. The survey was discussed earlier.
2. Budget and Finance University [Salazar-Collier]
   a. Nothing to report
3. Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees [Hatcher]
   a. Nothing to report; but will work on updating the UCC description
4. Awards [Garcia]
   a. Streamline the Awards process by posting all information online
   b. Worked with Dr. Madden and Interfolio to ensure no problems
5. Faculty Handbook [Sosa]
   a. Working on updating the Constitution; link all policies/laws from state, system, and university.
   b. Place handbook online only rather than a Word document
   c. Updating the website
6. Assessment [Brooks]
   a. Nothing to report
7. Distance Education and Instructional Technology [Clarke]
   a. Instructional Technology Awards nomination window open
   b. Accessibility date has been pushed back 1 year – thru grant as well
   c. CATIE Chancellor's Conference on Technology in June (8 – 9) at the Rellis campus at College Station and the an online version (12$^{th}$). It is professional development on technology and best practices.
   d. VoiceThread is discontinued from use starting in May. Harmonize will replace it. Better application and more features
   e. Respondus application is free for students
   f. Projectors and screen panels will be replaced with 90 inch flat panels starting in Bullock Hall 2$^{nd}$ floor.
8. Technology Advisory [Hillburn]

    a. New format coming instead of spreadsheets. They will 'formify' it; make them forms instead. They are working on the accessibility and the security ones and VPAT one is still being worked on.
    b. New position: Accessibility Coordinator is Gloria Sanchez
    c. Force Point review and reassess over the summer
    d. Working on new 'UConnect' not Uconnect
    e. Areas where students messing with podiums. Surveillance, but some concerns with that
    f. Mac Lab will be on the 1st floor with 34 units. AirDrop banned.
    g. New labs in the Annex and the new Health Sciences building; open to faculty.
    h. Access app for doors; you may request to add more doors to the list of having the app access option.
9. Web Advisory [Hillburn]
    a. Nothing to report
10. Fixed-Term Faculty [Gorbunova]
    a. Nothing to report
11. Ethics Committee [Garcia]
    a. Nothing to report

**Awards Vote 2025-2026 Faculty Advisory Council**

1. Distinguished Scholar of the Year
    a. Representatives voted
2. Distinguished Teacher of the Year
    a. Representatives voted
3. Outstanding Teacher of the Year
    a. Representatives voted

**Announcements and Other Business**

1. Other issues - none

Adjournment. Motion and seconded. Passed. Adjourned at 1:45 PM.