Faculty Advisory Council Agenda

Oct 2, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM | STC 230
Minutes for regular monthly meeting

In attendance

G. Clarke, Presiding Officer	A. Hilburn, Associate Presiding Officer A	C. Sosa, Secretary	E. Garcia, Parliamentarian
N. Garcia	R. Arenaz	A. Addo-Mensah	M. Carey
L. Brooks	C. Salazar-Collier	M. Runnels	A. Berktay
J. Hwang	F. Nath	N. Songstad	G. Fan -A
A. Cano-Sampson - A	V. Vela – A	J. Gutierrez – A	

Call to Order

- Called to order at 12:04 PM by Presiding Officer, Dr. George Clarke.

Quorum

- A quorum is present

Guests

Dr. Christopher Maynard, President & Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

- Investiture; great week of activities. Good for the university.
- Announcements
    - Moving forward into an R2 status
    - Residential and housing expansion. Finalize the plan this year
    - TAMIU Family tuition plan. Application live and starts Spring 2027
    - New Athletics Director starts November 1
- Testimony to Legislative Budget Board. It is a combined committee for both the House and Senate and the governor's office. Laid our priorities, which include base funding, which derives from enrollment, which has increased in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Other initiatives: healthcare, building requests (C-CAP, campus construction assistance program).
- Questions
    - Core Curriculum timeline.
        - It depends on students' degree plan and start date for the specific catalog. Students taking any of those courses will be honored. Follow-up: Removal of courses from core. There is a stronger mission to enforce courses that should be foundational and required to the students' core learning of essential skills

and knowledge. There should be consideration for transferability. Dr. San Miguel reinforced that while there are several curricula changes happening at the state level that overlap. The core curriculum courses removed were not controversial, but because they should be foundational. The courses were not eliminated, just removed from the core curriculum listing. They can still be part of the program or degree plan. Dr. Maynard emphasized that over time there is a stronger emphasis to shrink the core to be more focused. Suggestion to look at the course and potentially change it to a 3000 or 4000 to require it.

- Research Concerns
  - R2 status and graduate study support (financial aid, fellowships, scholarships, TAs). Dr. Maynard stated that system is investing in universities across the system, providing additional support for universities to improve their Carnegie status. The TAMUS system has a research committee that has reserved significant number of resources where all universities can apply and use (Research Excellence Fund – look at the ORSP emails). TAMIU needs to increase the doctoral programs (20 a year over 3 years). While for designation it focuses on the doctoral programs, but also focuses on the master's programs as well.
  - The status of the yield giving funds is for the merit-based scholarships.
  - Are there other universities that have moved to R2 status that we can see the best practices to follow the model. The Hanover Research will provide Dr. San Miguel with a report that outlines best practices and specific behaviors that made their change successful. Administrators also have CoPs within their roles to discuss with other TAMUS universities.
  - Concern that general technology and other resource issues. Concern about the food service – quality and availability – is limited for students who don't have transportation or limited budgets. There is a long-term plan to build a cafeteria with the construction of the next dorm on campus. Food trucks will be available soon to expand options. Provide wipes at the student center to clean the tables.
  - Funding is allocated from different sources for different things. Their commitment is to try to address all of our needs and work with our faculty and staff to identify once we know about a specific need. Moreover, it is important to bring those needs up to your department chairs and deans.

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

- Curricular processes are ongoing
- New degree programs with 2 doctoral programs are in process

- Faculty searches are underway and posting
- Posting more postdoc positions; considering research specific faculty. Workload of teaching and research. TAMIU is an outlier that has lower teaching load requirements. If faculty are highly research productive, there should be course release in fall and spring semester. Dr. Maynard suggested building that requirement (course release) into any grant (buyouts).

Rosalinda Garcia, Vice President for Student Engagement

- UMatter @TAMIU and JED Foundation
- The JED Foundation is a national organization that goes to college campuses and K-12 schools to try to determine how well they are supporting the mental health of their students. After surveying students and evaluating our services, they provide a strategic plan to improve services for students.
- Mrs. Garcia provided statistics. If you are interested, please reach out to her or the office.
- How can faculty help?
    - Training. Get trained and promote training to colleagues
        - To register: Gatekeeper Trainings (1 coming up in November 20)
        - There is a student version for training (QPR, question, persuade, refer)
    - Encourage belonging (group work, opportunities to meet at the beginning in class, or messaging chats)
    - Promote TAMIU services
    - Recommend the TAMUS TELUS 'Talk About It" app

[Approval of September Minutes completed electronically last month. No corrections. Online.]

New Business

1. Introduction of New Members [Clarke]
    - Melissa Runnels and Nicole Songstad from Library Services
    - J. Hwang from COAS, Fine Arts
    - Fatick Nath from COAS, School of Engineering
2. UCC Representative [Clarke]
    - Nicole Songstad volunteered
3. Ombuds Officer [Clarke]
    - Process: 1) FAC Parliamentarian asks for nominations, 2) FAC votes for all nominees members feel are adequate to proceed – it is not a vote for the Ombuds Officer, 3) the Provost reviews and approves. If the Provost approves only 1 person, they become the Ombuds Officer. If the Provost approves multiple candidates, it goes to the faculty-at-large to vote.
    - Voted for slate of candidates. All nominees were voted through to next step. Will be presented to the Provost.

4. TCFS Update [Sosa]
    - TAMUS universities (Council of Councils) met prior to the conference. Some concerns that will be presented to TAMUS administration:
        - Visas/Renewals now on hold at system
        - Enrollment across the system is flat or decreasing and budget concerns
        - More specific: Admin changing criteria/rubric for entire university that faculty feel is punitive. Course release policies changing to include more criteria and stricter. On campus presence, seems like isolated decision to have faculty on campus 8 -5.
    - Other concerns: AI, leadership decisions, common core, outcomes-based funding
5. Combining TAC, DEITC, and web committees [Sosa]
    - There are 2 University standing committees that are co-led by the OIT departments and FAC representatives. The meetings are organized and, at times, similar topics are covered. At the FAC level, we have 2 sub-committees as well, the DEITC and TAC. Combining the FAC sub-committees, DEITC and TAC, into 1 technology committee will streamline these concerns. In this new committee, the Website Committee representative will be included. They can meet to discuss and then attend their respective technology university standing committees.
    - Motion to combine the DEITC and TAC sub-committees into 1 technology sub-committee to include the Website Committee representative. Motion passed.
    - Send to Committee on Committees to develop name, description, and responsibilities. * This does not affect the DEITC or TAC Standing Committees, only the FAC sub-committees.
6. Research sub-committee [Sosa]
    - There is a potential need for a research sub-committee to discuss important matters to better support faculty. Proposal to enact a research sub-committee to discuss matters related to research and scholarship such as funding, resources, and infrastructure support.
    - Motion to enact a research sub-committee. Motion passed.
    - Send to Committee on Committees to develop name, description, and responsibilities.
7. Charges for the assessment committee [Sosa]
    - The Academic Oversight committee is overloaded as a catch all for all things related to faculty whether curriculum/academic or welfare. In keeping the Academic Oversight committee true to academic concerns, there is a need to develop a committee (or reorganize a current one) that will take on these kinds of concerns.
    - Proposal to reorganize the FAC Assessment sub-committee to include the assessment that is already worked on, the faculty climate survey (from Academic Oversight) and concerns about morale, workload, well-being and other work-related concerns that don't align with the Academic Oversight sub-committee's mission.

- Motion to reorganize the Assessment committee to the Faculty Welfare/Affairs sub-committee. Motion did not pass; no second.
- Send to Committee on Committees to develop name, description, and responsibilities with recommendations from the Assessment Committee for further discussion next meeting.

8. Handbook Revisions for Sub-Committees [Sosa]
    - All sub-committees review their own handbook description and revise as necessary.
    - Some committees will have additional work to review specific chapters that pertain to them:
        - Chapter 3 & 8 – Ethics sub-committee
        - Chapter 4 & 6 – Academic Oversight*
        - Chapter 5 – Fixed-Term
        - Chapter 15 – Awards Committee

Old Business

~~Survey Results and Related Action Items [Hilburn (recorded)].~~ See comment below in Academic Oversight Committee.

Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Academic Oversight ~~[Hillburn (recorded)]~~
    - ~~Changes in Program Minors~~
    - ~~Changes to Core Curriculum~~
    - Discussion to have a moderated town hall to ask questions to the President and Provost. Live streamed and in person
2. Assessment [Brooks]
    - Did not meet
    - Will select chair.
    - Will discuss revised charges and send to Committee on Committees
3. Awards [Brooks]
    - Dr. Brooks is the Chair
    - Adding information to the website
4. Budget and Finance University [?]
    - Did not meet
    - Select chair.
    - EV Parking
5. Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees [N. Garcia]
    - Will work on new sub-committee: Research
    - Will work on Assessment reorganization proposal

- Will work on new sub-committee: Technology Combination

6. Distance Education and Instructional Technology [Clarke]
   - Newsletters
   - Harmonize replaced VoiceThread
   - TopHat – no longer free for students; they will get charge
   - Need to setup through Blackboard for a $19 subscription, if through the website it is $35, and at the bookstore with card access, it is $50.
   - TAMUS AI Framework/Chat is free for faculty
   - Blackboard Updates: Select which formats to allow, gradebook last logon, AI conversations.
7. Faculty Handbook [Sosa]
   - Work on the Constitution.
   - Work on the handbook. Need to be consistent with current TX laws, TAMUS policies, and TAMIU SAPs.
8. Fixed-Term Faculty [Carey]
   - Find out how many are fixed-term
   - Revise the fixed-term faculty chapter
   - Discuss reclassification
9. Technology Advisory [Hillburn]
   - Hilburn absent
10. University Ethics Committee [Cano-Sampson]
    - Select a chair
    - Work on chapters
11. Web Advisory [Hillburn]
    - Hilburn absent

Announcements and Other Business

1. ~~Provost Council Update [Hillburn (recorded)]~~
2. Executive Council Update [Clarke]
   - Executive Council Meeting Minutes Archive
   - Fall enrollment was a record high earlier this month
   - During investiture, $251,000 raised from donations
   - All syllabi have been reviewed for DEI issues and TAMUS will report back later this month
   - Lots of curriculum updates due this year. Nearly every program will need to revise their curricula because of the elimination of FYE 1201 for next year to deal with the loss of this 2 credit course. Dr. Maddan advise meeting with him for assistance.

- Smart glasses are a growing issue in classes. Faculty are encouraged to create a syllabus policy on the use of smart glasses.

3. Elections Update [E. Garcia]
   - Every position is filled, minus the exception is 2 in the Graduate Council. College of Education and College of Nursing are needed
4. Other issues
   - The COAS Dean is contacting faculty to create their own FAC and calling it the Faculty Advisory Council as well. Creating confusion if it was the university FAC or COAS FAC.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.