



Faculty Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Sept 4, 2026 | 12:00 PM-3:00 PM | STC 231

Minutes for regular monthly meeting

In attendance

G. Clarke	A. Hillburn	C. Sosa	E. Garcia
M. Carey	V. Vela	N. Garcia	R. Arenaz
A. Addo-Mensah	A. Cano-Simpson	A. Berkday	L. Brooks
J. Gutierrez	G. Fan - A	C. Salazar-Collier - A	[4 members pending]

Call to Order

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

Quorum

- A quorum is present

Guests

Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Maynard still in College Station for BoR meeting
- Dr. San Miguel recapped the discussion topics that happened at the Board of Regents meeting.
 - Low Enrolled Minors – Based on the decision by the BoR, Dr. San Miguel sent an email 9/4 to address it. Low enrolled minors (across 5 years) were identified by universities and sent to the BoR for approval to be removed/discontinued. Those were approved. Students enrolled in those minors will be able to continue. Elimination will be until Summer 2029; which is ample time to complete the minor. Incoming students would not be able to enroll starting this semester and transfer students may not enroll after mid-Spring semester 2027.
 - Core Curriculum – elimination of courses to core were also voted and approved based on the university's submission. The list of courses were included in the email Dr. San Miguel sent on 9/4. Some courses were added, many stayed, and some were removed. Removing a course from the core curriculum does not mean the course is removed. The courses will no longer have the core designation and cannot be used to satisfy a student's core requirement.
 - The BoR regents also discussed mental health support for students. (VP R. Garcia developed a proposal to the system to fund more counselors and case

managers.) BoR also discussed micro mobility; using scooters on the A&M campus and conducting a study. They also discussed screw worms and the potential impact to the economy and livestock.

- [Investiture week](#) (inauguration week) – Starts September 14. Each day will have 2 -3 events planned. TAMUS administration will be here for Friday's event.
- Question/concern about the Core curriculum. There were decisions made, lack of communication, and the general process. Dr. San Miguel shared that for communication, those that served in the committee should share what happens in the committees served. The Core Curriculum meetings recommended based on the criteria needed to be considered a 'core' course. The course will still exist and be part of the majors/programs. From the committee, 2 courses were recommended to be removed that did not fit the criteria to be considered a 'core' course. The other part are the conversations that transpire among the BoR; they have opinions and recommendations. Follow-up questions: Why is it varied across the system? Dr. Madden: There were different courses dropped or kept? The example of a British & American Literature course being dropped. In this particular case, many years back, the course was split into 2 based on the time periods. This tied to the Texas Common Course Numbering System; the course is not common because there are 2 rather than only 1 like many other universities. A suggestion and Dr. Madden will be following up with faculty in those courses, is to consolidate it back to 1. Dr. San Miguel mentioned that there was some flexibility based on the needs of the university. We can still add to the core while also considering the transferability of the courses in the core.
- Question: When could a revision happen? When could courses be added to the core? Dr. Madden: You can add courses at this time, but cautions because 1) TAMUS system wanted to review the core curriculum and make decisions, and 2) state-wide there is an ongoing revision of the core curriculum. The state curriculum also made recommendations to the THECB. Dr. San Miguel added that the core in Texas is 43 SCH. The discussion/recommendation (commissioner/committee) at the state level is to reduce the core SCH to possibly 30 SCH. The THECB will recommend these changes to the state legislature that will meet Spring 2027, and then goes to the Governor. At this point, again, you can add courses, but it is will be difficult it is unsure by anyone what the core will look like. Further discussion and uncertainty is what happens to those courses or those hours? Are they added to majors, are they added to general electives? (*Side note: the 90 hour degree is not related to this nor is it meant to diminish the 120 hour degree. The 90 hour degree is also more for competency-based education programs such as BAS CJ for peace officers or law enforcement officers, firefighters, or paramedics that have certifications or licensures). Dr. San Miguel shared one last thought... there are several layers to consider when approving core courses. There is the 1) internal/university core

curriculum committee, 2) THECB, and 3) the TAMUS Board of Regents. At the university level, it may be approved, but may be denied at other levels.

- Dr. San Miguel noted another state level discussion about performance-based funding. Funding is based on tuition, formula-funding, and revenue. The discussion is applying what the state did to community colleges to public 4-year institutions. The state will give the university money based on the number of students we retain, the number of students matriculate from semester to semester/year to year, and the number of students that graduate in a compressed period of time. For courses that were removed, better data needs to be compiled to support leaving it as a core.
- Low Enrollment Minors – Question: Was the requirement of 5 graduating students every 5 years (25 total) a firm requirement by the BoR? Dr. San Miguel stated that about 2 years ago, low enrollment minors was discussed and the threshold of 2 graduating students every year. There were conversations with Vice Chancellor Hallmark, the BoR, and other Provosts across the system as to the threshold number and agreed on 5 graduating students every 5 years. This was across TAMUS; however, some campuses had a higher threshold but could not be lower. Follow-up question: What is the motive? Dr. San Miguel pointed to the Texas Governor's 60x30TX plan (now called [Building a Talent Strong Texas](#)) stresses the importance of the workforce. If there is a program that students are not interested or completing, then from the state of Texas' perspective, it is not contributing to the state. From that point of view, they are looking at the credentials for value in leading students to employment. The discussion continued. There is interest in discussing the "no minor" minor that detracts from other minors. Follow-up question: What are the next steps to build these back up that align with the state directives? Dr. San Miguel suggested to consider redesigning and getting creative to propose, combine with other existing minors (not one that will be discontinued). Also, need to analyze what the students are telling us by not registering for those minors. Is it the lack of interest in that minor, are there too many requisites, or something else? Some faculty are also interested in possibly discussing the multidisciplinary studies major.
- Interfolio – The use of Interfolio for the FAC Awards was successful. The process for FAC Awards will change this year. Another question about Interfolio access earlier to build portfolios and add artifacts was asked. Dr. Madden mentioned that there is a scheduled based on TAMIU SAP. You can still work on it before adding them into Interfolio. The Faculty Activity Reporting, FAR, is an additional feature and will be more efficient when adding items such as research and populates into your mid-reviews and profiles on website (moving away from Digital Measures and Helio Campus). At this time, there is still information that will still have to be filled in manually. (*On a side note, the VP of Finance and Administration is working on automating processes for approvals for grants, special programs, aides, etc. Dr. Maynard is looking to modernize many processes to be streamlined and electronic.)

- Energage Survey – Question on the email from Energage. Dr. Maynard and Mr. LaPlant, Chief of Staff, are interested in a climate survey. No communication was sent. It is legit.
- Construction – Construction has finished, but there seems to still be construction happenings mainly the area behind outside our loop, near the Health Sciences, back of the back 40. Are we doing construction or our neighbors. There is discussion about adding another entrance in the future. Dr. San Miguel is not aware but will inquire. For the legislation, the university asked for funding in the future for the construction of a new engineering building and funding for the communication disorders program.

~~Rosalinda Garcia, Vice President for Student Engagement~~

Ana María Vargas, Director of Digital Media, Office of Public Relations

- There will be a new portal. Currently, it is Uconnect. The Office of Public Relations, OIT, and Office of Enrollment Management are collaborating to update this portal. This group is seeking feedback and users to join a focus group to test the portal. The portal will no longer be only buttons and icons. It will be customizable to add certain apps that you use more often. The timeline will rollout in October 2026. Uconnect is ending as the vendor has another service that is more updated than UConnect. The concern to change this in October was brought up. Both sites will run concurrently for a small amount of time, so there are no issues. The group will look into possibly changing. If you are interested in joining the focus group, you can email Ana Vargas. There were some schedule in the next week and a few more in the future.

Approval of May Minutes

- Approval of April Minutes [Sosa] - No corrections or suggestions. Minutes approved and will be posted online.
- Moving forward, minutes will be sent electronically, consent electronically, and post them on the website sooner.

Business

- Introduction of new FAC members [George Clarke]
 - All FAC members in attendance introduced themselves.
- Discussion of Meeting Norms [Cynthia Sosa]
 - Brief overview and reminder about the expectations in the FAC meetings. All meetings will be open to faculty members, streamed over the Internet with live video and audio, and all meetings are in person. The FAC will casually follow Robert's Rules for motions and discussions. All members will be prepared, actively participate and listen. No questions there.
- Election of Parliamentarian /Elections Officer for FAC [George Clarke]

- Discussion about the need for a parliamentarian that oversees all the elections, keeps track of committees and appointments. Self-nomination by Ediza Garcia and won by acclamation.
- Committee Assignments for FAC Sub-Committees [George Clarke]
 - Discussion about elections for open positions on various committees. Members will have opportunity to sign up for their preferred committees. All FAC members should sign up for two committees. Discussion about each committee's main duties and goals. Once all Faculty Advisory Council members have selected their committees, the list will be compiled and sent to all Faculty Advisory Council members.
 - Academic Oversight
 - Awards
 - Assessment
 - Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees
 - Budget and Finance Committee
 - Distance Education and Instructional Technology [DEITC]
 - Faculty Handbook Revision
 - Fixed-Term Faculty
 - Technology Advisory Council [TAC]
 - University Ethics
- Student Fee Advisory Committee Representative [George Clarke]
 - M. Carey – FAC Representative
- Budget Committee Representative [George Clarke]
 - M. Carey – FAC Representative
- FAC Representative on Library Dean Search Committee [George Clarke]
 - R. Arenaz – FAC Representative
- Handbook and Webpage Revisions [Cynthia Sosa]
 - Continuing to revise the Constitution and handbook. It is really important to complete this this year to approve by FAC and then by faculty at large.
 - Website is updated and will maintain currency with meeting agendas and minutes.
- Updates from Executive Council/Dean's Council [Andy Hilburn]
 - The President's office will have official Executive Council meeting notes, but we will have our own to supplement.
 - Several discussions about what is happening around campus in different departments, enrollment, and rebranding.
 - There are new people in administrative positions.

New business

- EV Parking [Andy Hilburn]
 - A suggestion about requesting EV parking charging stations.
 - Sent to Budget Committee

- Changes in Program Minors [Andy Hilburn]
 - Discussion on the changes that have transpired. Reflecting on moving forward. There are a few topics to discuss such as re-envisioning a new minor, no-minor minors, and are minors wanted at the state or system level, and attaining better data about what is needed and wanted.
 - It is really important to think about potential solutions
- TCFS Roundup Questionnaire [Cynthia Sosa]
 - Texas Council of Faculty Senates membership. Meetings in Fall and Spring. Requesting some informal information about concerns or any topics to add to a report that need further discussion.

Old Business

- Academic Affairs Survey and Agenda for Action [Andy Hilburn]
 - Will discuss at next meeting

Other business

- Faculty Ombuds Officer
 - Requesting to submit names to the Presiding Officer
- Next month's meeting will be in STC 230

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.