Faculty Advisory Council Agenda

April 10, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | STC 231

Meeting Minutes

Guests

- Dr. Christopher Maynard, President
    - Dr. Maynard shared there is a lot happening at this time. 1) Several visitors: Student Regent Doucette and Regent Georgiadis who has never been to our campus and will be here to visit. 2) Job/candidate searches: CFO, VP for Advancement, a few other key searches. All going well. 3) Dr. Maynard shared he submitted the university's goals and budget report to the Chancellor. There is a Board of Regents board meeting in May and Dr. Maynard will present to them. 4) Dr. Maynard and committee working on investiture, which is a formal ceremony conferring the appointment of the President. It takes place during the second-half of their first year. The Chancellor will be here to lead the ceremony on September 18, 2026, but the entire week will be a celebration for the university (i.e. convocation, ribbon cuttings of 2 new buildings, lunches).
    - Question about open forum for candidate searches. Dr. Maynard responded that the change from 'open' forum to 'controlled' forum is for a few reasons and is now considered a best practice within searches and search firms that assist in these administrative searches. 1) Ensure the questions are on topic. They should be relevant; vet inappropriate, illegal, or inapplicable (i.e. family, religion, etc.). 2) Ensure similar experience for each candidate; more standard and equitable. (i.e. negative questions for 1 candidate and not the other). Each candidate is asked the same questions and focused on the job duties and qualifications of that role with the search committee chair moderating. While there are specific groups that are meeting with candidates; this forum is opportunity for anyone not in the specific groups, from the community or campus, to hear from these candidates, their vision, how their experience again relates to the job.
    - Dr. Maynard provided one last reminder about any job search: when a candidate comes on our campus, we're trying to determine if they're the right candidate for us, but they're also trying to determine if this is a great opportunity for them. In all our searches, we want to make sure when candidates step on campus, whether hired or not, has a great experience at our university.

- Follow up question about the visits. Needed clarification about their schedule or what they did or will do. Response: Dr. Maynard responded that the Student Regent was on campus and is visiting all 12 campuses. At each visit, he meets with students in different student groups, SGA, and various student orgs to talk to the students in this region. He hosted forums to hear from students and took that back to the Board of Regents. Regent Georgiades is a newer regent and has never been to campus and would like to visit and will most likely visit all 12 campuses. She will be on campus for 1 day (or the morning). She will meet with a few groups and have a tour of the campus to learn about what's happening at our university.
- Question about future vision for broader advocacy for the university and recruiting. Dr. Maynard responded how recruiting students from Webb County is going great. There is great interaction and rapport with our local high schools. He applauds the enrollment staff and advisors for having very strong relationships with our local districts. Outside of Webb County, we have fewer interactions. One goal is to expand that footprint to recruit more toward Eagle Pass, Zapata, towards south San Antonio. We are considered a regional comprehensive university, which is South Texas and northern Mexico. We need to recruit more students from northern Mexico, more students throughout South Texas. There are couple of goals: 1) expand marketing; tweak branding for outside of Webb County. Will use a 3rd party for branding consultation, 2) recruiting and investing in recruiters to go out farther as well outside of Webb County, and 3) consideration of expanding campus housing. Move toward 'residential campus' (Carnegie). Develop a timeline and funding model to grow and create affordable housing with potential to provide more scholarships. A follow-up comment relating to the students who stay in dorms don't have much to do on campus/there are limited or no resources. Dr. Maynard agreed that more is needed and has been requested by SGA. For example, adding another Starbucks/coffee shop and is looking into expanding the current Starbucks. Providing more opportunities for food choices with food trucks. In planning, looking at the trends and data and paying attention to those types of growth priorities that will make a big difference in the student experience.
- A question about the bookstore and having a more traditional bookstore selling different non-course related textbooks. Dr. Maynard shared that there hasn't been a discussion about that up to this point, but it doesn't mean it can't be discussed or added. In the end, the consideration is enough business for them to make money essentially and for our purposes at least break even,

as long as they're coming close to breaking even. It's just the question is, is there enough volume for whatever where they're talking about a bookstore or anything else? Community demand. A study to see what that bookstore would represent… how big, small, what kind of books. Is there demand from students, employees, and the community for the bookstore to exist.

- A question related to the housing expansion. PhD programs are growing and have models where the students have in-person instruction shifting the first semester classes to in-person on Saturdays (some students drive from out of town into Laredo and back on the same day after 3 courses). Is there consideration for the PhD students to use housing for their in-person classes? Dr. Maynard suggested starting conversations with the Provost's office to reconsider the program schedule and format to online or a 3 day intensive rotation once a month to make it more accessible to students. For housing, Dr. Maynard mentioned this has been a topic he has dealt with before and, of course, there are potential options for short-term or temporary housing (in dorms or in community) available. To make informed decisions, knowing how many students will dictate what kind of options are available. This would require knowing the housing demand itself but the support resources such as financial cost needed. Dr. Maddan added that the Criminal Justice program moved to the Saturday/Sunday model and gathering data and feedback. Discussions are forthcoming.
- Follow up questions related to expanding opportunities for students on campus. A concern is that students who live on campus don't have cars and there isn't anything particularly close by for students to go or things to do. Dr. Maynard responded that it would be a broader conversation with the local community and those persons who own the land nearby to consider adding shopping centers. This would be a public/private partnership. It is not guaranteed as the developers are looking at the investment ('how much money am I going to make?'). While those conversations can happen, we should also consider what we can do ourselves. For example, considering shuttle buses for regularly scheduled trips to shopping centers or stores, which would be great experiences for our students. The challenge is funding. Most universities fund that from the parking fees. Dr. Maynard likes that there is no parking fee for students; however, the lack of revenue creates a barrier to using that revenue for shuttle buses.

- Dr. Sean Maddan, Associate Provost, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

- Faculty searches are wrapping up now and should finish by the end of the semester.
- Thank you to faculty for working on completing the alignment and revisions on the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs). Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) are completed and mostly uploaded to Helio Campus. Assessments are based on those going forward for increased alignment. Currently, faculty are working on Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) to be completed by the end of the semester. The Provost is thankful for all faculty who are working on these tasks.
- Core Curriculum Review. Currently in the process of reviewing the core curriculum courses. This is a state-mandated charge that requires all systems/universities to certify the core courses' content (what's in the core) yearly. Related to that period of being able to load core classes or to take core classes out of your curriculum/catalog of courses. Faculty are involved; the core curriculum committee that already existed is involved and there are a few community members from outside the institution to review. The faculty will review the academic part (curriculum) and the community members will evaluate the skills gained that are associated with each course. The committee met at the beginning of the month and will meet again to complete the review on April 22. The committee will meet to review the courses to discuss the content (student learning outcomes – SLOs) and skills gained. To reiterate, the committee is evaluating and ensuring each core course is aligned with assessments and includes the THECB requirements.
- Follow-up question. Who are the community members? And do you see the core shrinking, expanding, staying the same (number of courses offered)? Dr. Maddan responded that he was open to the committee; he did not set limits or stress a certain action must be taken (decrease/increase/stay the same). One question that was posed to the committee when thinking about the core curriculum courses was, *do you think this class should remain in the core?* Dr. Maddan stressed that resources were provided and gave some context about the core curriculum (THECB, our catalog, reviewing syllabi) and the CIM form from the original submission of the course. Then, look at skills after that. The community members: Cliff Killam, Richard Chamberlain, and Linda LaMantilla. Dr. Maynard stated that feedback from people in the industry is important to make sure our students are employable with the skills necessary to get really great jobs, which is also a requirement from the state to get regular input from our industry partners in the region. Last, the legislature is discussing the core in the next legislative sessions. The push is for the

universities to review themselves and make those adjustments and let the universities if they want them to do more, they develop more regulations. The expectation is that there will be more specific regulations with the core curriculum. One such potential change that has not been decided but is being considered at the state level is lowering the core curriculum hours. The mission is still same to provide a quality education. While the core curriculum hours may change, the degree is still 120 hours, there is potential to use those hours somewhere else within the major or minor.

- Question about the development regarding the like minors and certificate policy. Dr. Maddan shared that the conversation is ongoing between the Provost and President. They are looking at it for long term not just a one off. Dr. Maynard also added that there are discussions on this across the A&M system. The perceptions is that it will be a system standard rather than all 12 universities having their individual standards. Dr. Maynard stated they are in draft mode, reviewing what is the benchmark, reviewing what works for our university, and discussing with other Presidents and Provosts around the system to agree on a specific way/standard. Board of Regents prefer to have one standard for all universities. Follow up question: Is the system standard the number of students in that program or the students graduating so many years or something else? Dr. Maynard responded that it is how many students are completing that minor within a given time period. This also reflects the legislative session that also consulted with the coordinating board to set standards for minors. To provide context, there is a standard for low producing majors and there are discussions (by the state legislation/THECB and Board of Regents) to have a similar standard for low producing minors. This has not been the norm in Texas universities, but it is a focus now. The discussions also include not only the standard, but what happens with those minors that would be considered low producing. There is consideration about finding solutions – adjusting, combining them, or ultimately eliminate them. Non-minor minor is part of the discussion.
- Question regarding the program chairs, their responsibility, and their incentives. Dr. Maddan responded that there are ongoing discussions and assessments of the chair roles and next administrative layer of program directors and program coordinators, which affects the chair's responsibilities. While the chair position is normative, the duties and roles that some perform are different than others. The variety of duties varies greatly across all colleges and departments. Additionally, they may be set up differently – contract, honorary title, reimbursement, service role, etc. The discussion will

continue with Chairs and Deans in the next Provost Council. There is consensus that there should be some kind of standardization of expectations regardless of the college or department. A council member shared that there should be consideration for faculty who start new programs. Some faculty must keep to their course loads, research, and service expectations AND start these new programs (no course release or incentives).

    - A question about course accessibility. Dr. Maddan stressed that the TAMIU e-learning team is doing a wonderful job in providing trainings and 1:1 support. Dr. Maynard reiterated this is a federal ruling, not a university initiative. There is accountability for the faculty at the university if not in compliance and for the university if not in compliance. The option should not be to remove course materials to comply because the students lose out on valuable information and instruction. The goal for this ruling is to make all digital documents accessible for all learners who need accessible content (i.e. visually or hearing impaired and other students who use assistive technologies.

- Mr. Trevor Liddle, Associate Vice President, Office of the President [Books Included]. Mr. Liddle was not in attendance.
- Mr. Gilbert Perez, Assistant Chief Information Officer, OIT [Software Updates].
    - Banner Experience. Rolling out in the Fall 2026 with a soft release in the Summer with a small cohort of students and faculty. It is a new portal for students, faculty, and staff. Trying to do away from the buttons click farm and have a more interactive design. Links will still be available, but there will be more to do, pending action on Banner, submit grades, or notifications. It will be integrated right into Banner; same ecosystem. The class, schedules, and courses are on cards. Students will be able to pay their bills. The Vice-President for Enrollment Management, Juan Gilberto (Chelelo) García and team and Mr. Perez are working on this project.
    - Touch Net Mobile IDs. Use the Touch Net Mobile 360 U app to pay for things around campus. You will login with your SSO (TAMIU credentials) and see your digital ID card. Currently, you can pay for meal plans, Starbucks, and all the food service locations on campus. Future updates: 1) use Apple Pay and Google Pay, 2) use at the Rec Center, and 3) printing. The SAG requested this.
    - Duo Mobile. The change from various options to just verified pushed code. This is a TAMUS mandate to change this as there were instances of verifying when and individual is not trying to log into anything. Moreover, with spoofing of emails and phone calls, those options are not viable anymore.
    - VPATs. More requirements from the state and federal government about purchasing electronic licenses and applications. Gloria Sanchez is the new Program Manager for Digital Accessibility Compliance. She will provide overall support for accessibility. In this case, for the procurement processes, Mrs.

Sanchez will be able to review proposals and documents to approve rather than wait on the TAMUS Accessibility person.

- Safe Zone. They will have email option; all faculty and staff will have an email/SMS notification sent even with the without the app. Also, for special events, a QR code will be available, any person, including guests, can enroll for a short period of time and opt in (30 days). Faculty can do this as well and re-enroll or continue to opt-in after certain amount of time.
- AI Checker. This is through the e-Learning team.
- Microsoft Co-Pilot pro. This had been rolled out for everyone. Use your TAMIU credentials. It is integrated into Microsoft Office and other apps.
- TAMUS AI Framework. This is a system-wide project for use by all. This is an AI playground with all LLMs for all faculty for free. You will be able to use it with the added security that this is not sharing data with the LLMs and AI.
- Infrastructure. WiFi Access Points upgrade. They have completed 2/3 buildings and will continue with the rest. Upgrading to WiFi 7. Upgrading over the next 3 to 4 years.
- Infrastructure. After hours building access. There is an app called Proximus. They are transitioning to the app and building by building.

Quorum

1. Quorum Check
   a. The meeting is called to order at 1:02 PM. A quorum is present.

New Business

1. ~~Books Included [Clarke]~~
2. Elections Update [Hatcher]
   a. Elections are ongoing. 1) Elected positions. Nomination window has closed. Verifying candidates/pending confirmation. There are 27 elected positions. There are 2 – 3 possible elections for all faculty, but majority are sole nominees/acclimation. All faculty vote will take place by the end of the month (April). 2) Appointed positions. The list of appointments/appointment information will be sent to chair, Deans, and president's next week. There are 48 positions needed to be filled on the appointment list.
   b. Encourage your colleagues to volunteer for appointments.
3. Open Forum Policy [Clarke]
   a. There is a general concern from faculty (from the suggestion box) about the switch from 'open forums' to 'controlled/closed' forums for candidate searches. A better fit for this type of event is a Q&A session. Concern about the difference between curation and censorship. Getting a CV/resume or job description to know about the position in order to better understand the role. More information about the candidates. The search committee chair

moderates it. Also, would like more information about the curation of the questions, who has input, or how they are prioritized. Is there an evaluation of the open/controlled forums. Is there an internal rubric within the committee or are the open/controlled forums weighed in comparison to other interview portions.

4. Faculty Ombuds Officer [Clarke]
    a. Current Ombuds Officer is retiring. The nomination process is different for this position: 1) The FAC calls for nominations, 2) FAC vets everybody, 3) the Provost approves the candidate or slate of candidates. If there is a slate of candidates, it goes to an all faculty vote. Need to vet the candidates now to discuss with Provost. May reopen this position again for nominations if more are wanted or needed.
    b. Motion to approve the candidate (Dr. Angel Pacheco) for Ombuds Officer. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Survey for Increased Bureaucratic Burden on Faculty [Hilburn]
    a. 20 question survey for all faculty. To be administered between now and the next FAC meeting. The Academic Oversight Committee will summarize the data and decide how to communicate/distribute the results. A suggestion is that meetings are now open and if anyone would like to know the results, attendance at the FAC meeting in May is an option. Another option is to distribute the results to all faculty.
    b. Motion to approve the survey to send to all faculty. Motion passed.

Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Academic Oversight [Hillburn]
    a. Other topics: self-censorship and the development of censorship whether omission of words, materials, content from courses. Other concerns dealing with flagged syllabi, books whether the content or preemptive removal of chapters in books. The administration's rationale is to screen items to safeguard the faculty before any kind of potential litigation or concerns arise from students or others. Administration/university would not be able to intervene or support the faculty member at that point if it reaches the THECB. Encourage all to get any recommendation from administration in writing.
    b. Concerning advising, will work on a memo to have more engagement with advising advisors and programs/departments.
2. Budget and Finance University
    a. Nothing to report at this time

3. Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees [Hatcher]
    a. Nothing to report at this time
4. Awards [Garcia]
    a. In progress and on time for the FAC Awards. Next is completing the teaching observation for 2 of the awards (OTY & DTY). April 17th is the deadline to complete the observation. Next, all FAC will review the nominees' portfolios in Interfolio (Scholar of the Year, OTY, & DTY). Voting will take place on May 1 at the next FAC meeting. This is an honor system. If you did not review the nominees' portfolio, the committee recommends abstaining from voting in fairness.
    b. Previously, discussion and voting took place during the May meeting and anonymously. The question was raised about the discussions now that we are streamed. If not comfortable, it would be a closed vote and no discussion. Consensus is to keep it as usual where the discussion is open.
    c. Awards Committee will be responsible for the FAC Instagram account to post about faculty accomplishments. Organize a system to submit stories for Instagram.
5. Faculty Handbook [Sosa]
    a. Constitution Update. Based on new TAC (SB37), TAMUS policies, and TAMIU SAPs and rulings, the revision to the Faculty Handbook will be quite substantial. Moreover, from our internal knowledge and asking veteran faculty, the Constitution was written and voted on in 1995. There have been no revisions at all. That also presents an issue in our processes and procedures that what we're doing now is not accurately reflected in the Faculty Handbook's Constitution. This revision is not intentional to limit faculty's voice. We need to make that alignment clear between what the state is requiring of us through the TAC (Texas Administrative Code), what is in the rulings with the system (TAMUS Policy), and then also procedures from the university (TAMIU Rulings & SAPs). Please share with colleagues/departments, that the Constitution is going to be a big change.
    b. The voting for the revised Constitution will take place in the Fall and be organized section by section (Articles) and see the old vs. the new.
    c. The Faculty Handbook Committee will review the changes and decide if starting from scratch (still using certain parts) is more efficient.
6. Assessment [Brooks]
    a. Nothing to report at this time
7. Distance Education and Instructional Technology [Clarke]

    a. Top Hat will no longer be free
    b. SYL. Will be integrated into Blackboard. Will update automatically when you update and no downloading of the syllabus.
    c. Blackboard Collaborate is now expired. The preferred application is now Teams for any video conferencing. Teams is now integrated into Blackboard. If there was any content/videos from Collaborate, you may contact OIT eLearning to retrieve those videos.
    d. QM recertification courses are coming up. Only the original designer (faculty member) will be notified 4 months before the expiration. At that point, it is up to the developer (faculty member) to discuss with their chair about the course.
    e. Accessibility. 60% of courses are above the 90% threshold. Concern that not all faculty are being informed of this. Every faculty member is responsible for their own courses that are taught regardless of who developed them. Every semester, faculty will need to make their course accessible. Your chair should notify you if you are below the threshold.
    f. Blackboard updates. Quizzes and tests, you can now have more than one answer when setting them up. Can now select the formats to submit any documents (only PDF or Word doc).
8. Technology Advisory [Hillburn]
    a. Mr. Perez addressed the updates.
9. Web Advisory [Hillburn]
    a. Experience panel that will replace Uconnect. A poll may be sent over the summer to get feedback from faculty about some of the content.
10. Fixed-Term Faculty [Gorbunova]
    a. Nothing to report at this time
11. Ethics Committee [Garcia]
    a. Nothing to report at this time

Announcements and Other Business

1. None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting is adjourned at 2:29 PM.