

TAMIU Faculty Advisory Council

February 6th, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM | STC 231

Meeting Minutes

Quorum

1. Quorum Check
 - a. The meeting is called to order at 12:01 PM. A quorum is present.

Determination of Faculty Advisory Council's Staggering Terms

- Dr. George Clarke, Presiding Officer and Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VPAA.
- Dr. San Miguel randomly selected 7 from pile of names cards. The 7 random names called will serve a 1-year term to end in May 2026.
 - Tatiana Gorbunova—Fine & Performing Arts
 - Paul Niemeyer—Humanities
 - Geoffrey Hubona—DIBTS
 - Iris Santos—Nursing
 - Runchang Lin—Math & Physics
 - Pamela Neumann—Social Sciences
 - Jeanette Hatcher—Killam Library
- All others will serve a 2-year term ending in May 2027 (TAMIU Policy 12.04.99.L1 Faculty Advisory Council).

Guests

- Intro of guests: Dr. San Miguel, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, and Dr. Lola Norris
- Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Associate Provost
 - AI Task Force. The AI Task Force is underway and had their first meeting last week. Discussed the committee members including faculty, a librarian, a student rep, other departments such as Student Services and eLearning, and Honor Council representatives. The task force will be meeting consistently every 2 weeks during Spring semester. This diverse group will provide input about AI use with these general goals: 1) inquire on what other systems are doing, 2) evaluate policies but keeping to TAMIU's integrity, legal guidelines, and ethical code, and 3) find opportunities for faculty professional learning. In May, Dr. Gonzalez will compile the recommendations and information to deliver to Provost and President. No questions asked.
- Dr. Lola Norris, Dean of The Graduate School
 - Handbook Update for Chapter 6 - Graduate Faculty. Dr. Norris provided an updated chapter 6* from the TAMIU Faculty Handbook to reflect the changes about the categories for faculty who teach at the graduate level. In general:
 - Full membership stayed as is. This is for the duration of a faculty's employment at TAMIU.

- External membership was removed. Not many fall under this category, and many were ineligible.
- Created a new category: Associate Membership. Fixed term and clinical faculty will belong to this new category. This is for a 5 year term.
- Temporary Membership was redefined. Includes full-time, part-time employees or external faculty. This is for a 3 year term.
- A question arose about the difference between Full and Associate membership since both include tenured and tenure track faculty. Associate membership can include visiting faculty or if for whatever reason the faculty member does not qualify for full membership.
- It was noted that full membership could be removed if a faculty member earns below a score of “3” in research and or teaching in the annual faculty evaluation (i.e. PPE) for 2 consecutive years.
- The Faculty Advisory Council will vote. If passes, the faculty at large will vote. If it passes, it will be referred to the Handbook Committee to revise the chapter in the handbook. The Faculty Advisory Committee [FAC] will vote for this in “Other business.” *Since last updated, Graduate Faculty is chapter 7.

New Business

1. Quorum.
 - a. Current quorum in the faculty handbook (Appendix B: Constitution, Article IV, Section 9) is stated as a simple majority (>50%). Current TAMIU Policy (12.04.99.L1 Faculty Advisory Council) states ‘at least 50%.’ Discussion on whether to keep the quorum at 50% or change it. Motion to keep at 50% and seconded. Voted; the motion passed.
2. Meeting times.
 - a. Discussion about the best time to meet for the Faculty Advisory Council. It has always been on Fridays, but with the schedule changes, not everyone can meet. Several times/dates were suggested. Previously, members would talk to their chair. Straw poll on the current day/time. Majority could attend the current time. Meetings will stay on Fridays at 12 PM.
 - b. The April meeting lands on Good Friday. Suggestion to move the April meeting to April 10th. Motion. Motion to move the meeting and seconded. Voted; the motion passed.
3. Meeting norms.
 - a. 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.
4. Election for Parliamentarian.

- a. Discussion about the need for a parliamentarian that oversees all the elections, keeps track of committees and appointments. Nomination for Jeanette Hatcher. Accepted nomination and won by acclamation.
- 5. [This includes items 5, 6, 7, 8] Open Positions.
 - a. Discussion about elections for open positions on various committees. Members have emailed their preferences for committee work. There are still some empty seats for committees and open positions. 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.
 - i. Academic Oversight
 - ii. Awards
 - iii. Assessment
 - iv. Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees
 - v. Budget and Finance Committee
 - vi. Distance Education and Instructional Technology [DEITC]
 - vii. Faculty Handbook Revision
 - viii. Fixed-Term Faculty
 - ix. Technology Advisory Council [TAC]
 - x. University Ethics
 - xi. Web Advisory Committee (unofficial)
- 6. University Committee Appointments
 - a. BAC representative – Eva Morales
 - b. TAC representative – Geoffrey Hubona
- 7. Required Handbook Revisions
 - a. There will be extensive work needed in the Faculty Handbook due to SB-37, TAMAS SAP, and TAMIU policy now in place. There are also some recommendations from the administrators to develop a more efficient and accurate handbook.
- 8. Required Faculty Advisory Council Website Revisions
 - a. The Faculty Advisory Council website needs updating. The presiding officer invited all FAC members if interested to apply for approval to assist in making changes. Any FAC member may email the presiding officer.

Other Business

- The role of academic program minors. This has been an ongoing discussion and has been worked on for a while to see what happens. If anyone is interested in joining the conversation, let the presiding officers know.
- Chapter 6 – Graduate Faculty vote. Motion to accept the new chapter guidelines for graduate faculty membership and requirements and seconded. Voted; the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.