

Faculty Advisory Council Agenda

March 6, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | STC 231

Guests

1. Dr Christopher Maynard, President

- Dr. Maynard declared his commitment to shared governance. He once served on the Faculty Senate at two different universities and spent over a decade chairing shared governance committees. He reiterated his commitment... to work together with our faculty, with staff, and with students. We should work as a family, as a university community. We have transparency, dialogue, and communication working together for the same mission and the same goal. Dr. Maynard's commitment to the FAC is to always be transparent. Dr. Maynard relayed that legislation has changed how it looks a little differently than it has in the past. The mission is still the same.
- Dr. Maynard emphasized their work on the budget cycle process. It is the second year of the biennium. Minimal changes, but very similar budget for FY2027 as FY2026. Part of this is looking at enrollment. TAMIU is in a good position with the prospect of fall enrollment. Another part of the budget is any special requests items such as facility requests, which have an analysis of what's next. This considers the growth TAMIU may experience and the availability of resources and facilities. This also ties to any new programs we need to start and what they need. Last, there are building projects on campus, which has a website.

2. Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- The Office of the Provost continues a laser focus on student success. They are working in tandem together with the other VPS to look both equally at student success, faculty success, and staff success.
- Dr. San Miguel shared the work and research with Hanover Research to construct data on workforce trends and needs in region and state. They have reviewed metrics for programs. Dr. San Miguel shared the inception of 2 new doctoral degrees to start the process. There are 2 in development with COE and CNS in mental health counseling needs.
- A question was raised about the focus programs and assessing the national need and funding. Answer: Dr. San Miguel pointed out that look at national data. Some identified future programs identified within the STEM fields. A focus in establishing the core graduate programs. It is looking at the reports and also having discussions and using other data. These discussions will

happen within our university community, but we're also going to have discussions with our community partners & industry partners to look at the competition. Dr. Maynard stressed that there are recent funds secured and has seen commitment from the new chancellor to support the universities for research, new programs, or assistantships. Dr. Maynard also added that Carnegie changed their definition to where there is less distinction between professional and research, which is why the system is investing more resources to help TAMIU go from a research university to R2. A follow up concern was raised about interest in any program and the enrollment needed to start and sustain them. Answer: Dr. San Miguel reinforced to launch a program, the THECB requests proposal with a list of data points that address demand, job market needs, and the capacity to offer it.

- A question was asked about the change to the promotion and tenure timeline with respect to external reviewers. More specifically, there is ambiguity about when the reviewers are contacted, when the letters are due back, submission of pending articles, and the weight given to external reviewers in the P&T process. Answer: Dr. San Miguel responded that it will depend on the situation. If there is a faculty member that may not have a strong research portfolio for tenure, then external reviewers may have more focus to analyze it. The standards should align to the specific standards for the discipline. It is weighted depending on the case. In general, Dr. San Miguel stressed the change was due to the external reviewers time to submit within the deadline as well as difficulty in soliciting external reviewers in time before they would go on break. Last, Dr. San Miguel stated that if there is a publication that is submitted, it rare the external reviewer will say no and unless there are no or very limited publications.

Quorum

1. Quorum Check.
 - a. The meeting is called to order at 12:24 PM. A quorum is present.

New Business

1. Recording quality at FAC Meeting [Clarke]
 - We have additional microphones that are arranged around the tables. Council members are encouraged to sit at the main tables to be heard. It is important to talk loudly for the entire audience. All noise and side conversations are caught on the microphone. If further issues, presenting at

the podium may be a possible solution. Recording of the meetings are kept solely for documentation privately. Thank you to OIT for their assistance in providing more microphones and help with the setup. Some streaming issues to look into for future meetings.

2. Increased bureaucratic burden on faculty [Hilburn]

- Discussions have transpired in the Academic Oversight Committee. There is a rise in concern about responsibility balance between teaching, research, and service. It has traditionally been 40% teaching, 40% research, and 20% service. The concern seems to be about the amount of service that seems to be rising. It is more training/professional learning, learning new tech apps and software, submitting assessment documents, and other paperwork. Because of this rise in concern and feedback, let your respective programs and units know that we, the FAC, want feedback from everyone. The Academic Oversight Committee wants to determine if the concerns are temporary depending on the current time of the year or inherently more structural and permanent. For instance, SYL is now required to input syllabi every semester. Another instance currently, is the new requirements around assessment and the alignment of program learning outcomes and student learning outcomes. And the role of full-time faculty to review the PLOs or SLOs instead of adjunct faculty who teach specific courses. The concern is there is no adjustment of expectations for research or teaching to accommodate the new demands. There is also the accessibility requirement as well to work on.
- There was a question about the distinction between directors and coordinators? Answer: It is a related issue. There is variance with those roles such as coordinators for programs like the undergraduate degrees don't get any type of compensation or course release, but they're increasingly asked to take on more.

3. Core curriculum review and SB 37 [Clarke]

- This is a topic of interest and has been spoken about often in many meetings. The core curriculum review stems from the new legislation SB37. Historically, the previous Faculty Senate hasn't been directly involved in these curriculum discussions. The Curriculum Committee at TAMIU is responsible for the academic and curriculum issues and changes. The Faculty Advisory Council is a voice of the faculty to the administration.
- The review consists of the freshmen (1000s) and sophomore (2000s) level courses. These courses must be foundational, fundamental, and must equip students for employment in the real world.

- The Office of Provost is setting up a board to do this. This needs to be completed by June 1, 2026. The committee will have industry & community members on the committee, but the Provost's office anticipate inviting 3 or 4 community members and industry leaders while the majority will be faculty. They have not decided if it is a core curriculum committee or a separate committee.
- The Provost sent a FAQ to all faculty about the other requirements that fall under SB37. A conversation took place about needing more clarity on the ruling that you cannot teach or advocate race or gender ideology, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Generally, you cannot teach those concepts at all in the core curriculum classes. However, in upper level courses, you can teach on these issues, but you but you can't advocate on these issues. There is a difference between teaching and advocacy. Discussion continued on academic freedom and SB 37's defining race and gender plus core curriculum. Faculty need to be aware of the 2 definitions for gender and race ideology specifically. Textbooks, documents/readings are affected and being reviewed. Academic affairs committee to come back to us with suggestions that we can then discuss in the FAC. Moreover, the TAMUS General Counsel provided guidelines which were sent by the Provost about two weeks ago. THECB is reviewing the core curriculum in general about lowering the core curriculum semester credit hours (SCH) total. It is not known if curriculum reviews will happen more frequently, however, the syllabus reviews will take place every semester. Need clarification on the process every semester for syllabus reviewal.

4. Lecture recording policy at TAMIU [Clarke]

- A concern arose about students recording faculty during class time (not part of accessibility accommodations). Other campuses have policies in place on recording lectures without permission from the instructor of the course. Other examples have general policies about recording people without their permission around campus (i.e. locker rooms, bathrooms, and private areas).
- At TAMIU, the Student Handbook used the TAMU – College Station verbatim.
- The Provost is not aware of any policy on recording lectures. The provost also stated there is nothing at the university that would preclude a professor from including it in their syllabus (i.e. a boilerplate that states, "You may not record this lecture without my permission."). The exception is for disability accommodations.

- Action Item: A motion was proposed to create a proposed policy to the administration about prohibiting recording of lectures by students. Motion passed. The Academic Oversight Committee will develop the language for this policy.

Old Business

No old business

Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Academic Oversight [Hillburn]

- 2 additional updates
- Creating a Qualtrics survey for all faculty to gain some feedback, perspectives, and data about the burdens to share with administration. Will be private and anonymous. The survey will be finalized to propose to the FAC in the next meeting to send out to all faculty before the end of the semester.
- The other topic being discussed is advising and academic programs. It is now more structured and based separately from the faculty realm. However, there is a concern about communication between advisors knowing what students may want, what programs are available, what programs offer. This committee is looking at solutions such as inviting advisors to the department or college meetings to bridge communication and relationships.

2. Budget and Finance University [Salazar-Collier]

- Interest in greater transparency around the allocation of particular institutional gifts and endowment funds.
- Improving communication about the SACSCOC findings and institutional priorities so that faculty can be more aware and align their goals and program needs.
- Library resources and research infrastructure because of rising subscription costs and the impact that's having both on teaching and research for faculty who may use particular videos or journals in their work and losing access to those resources.
- Limitations on conference travel funding, instructional support resources, the over reliance on adjunct faculty which can attract program sustainability.
- Faculty lines allocation across programs.

3. Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees [Hatcher]

- All internal committees are formed and hold chairs.

- There are about 70 positions to fill
 - Approximately 40 are appointed and 30 are elected.
 - Next election: April
4. Awards [Garcia]
- The finalists for the college nominees due
 - Interfolio worked a lot better although some minor issues.
 - Next steps: Nominees for Outstanding Teacher of the Year [OTY] and Distinguished Teacher of the Year [DTY] will receive the e-mail instructions to record or to identify the course.
 - Emails also will go out to those who will assist with judging.
5. Faculty Handbook [Sosa]
- Revisions are needed but focusing on the Constitution portion first as it related most to the new legislation, policies from TAMUS, and SAPs from TAMIU
 - Have ready for April meeting to vote at the FAC then send out to all faculty
6. Assessment [Brooks]
- Reviewing administration evaluation forms for updates including the President of University, Provost, Deans and chairs. This also includes Faculty Advisory Council concerns.
 - Seek comments from both the faculty and administrators for any feedback that we can use.
 - Promote importance of increasing student response rate for course evaluations.
7. Distance Education and Instructional Technology [Clarke]
- Accessibility. The rate is good, but needs to reach the 90% goal. There will be TAMUS audits in 2027.
 - Top Hat has is no longer funded by the university, but it is in Books Included. Not clear about the next semester.
 - Harmonize pilot
 - TurnItIn. Has an AI detection tool
 - Learning Technologies Week was very successful
8. Web Advisory [Hillburn]
- Discussion about redesign of websites
9. Technology Advisory
- Not met yet
10. Fixed-Term Faculty
- Did not meet. Did select a chair.

11. Ethics Committee

- No news to provide

Announcements and Other Business

- Tim Rubel – faculty representative, President, AAUP. Discussed the organization and newly inaugurated chapter. For more information, you can contact Tim Rubel.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting is adjourned at 2:05 PM.