

**Dean's Council (with Chairs)**

**May 7, 2025**

**10:00 am-12:30 pm**

**KLM 420**

**1. Faculty Evaluations—Dr. San Miguel**

- a. I have finished reviewing all faculty evaluations. Faculty should have already received an email that the process has concluded. I did not agree with some scores and changed them. Since HelioCampus doesn't document those changes, I'll send an email to the individuals.
- b. Because the response rate is so low on the student evals, they are not very helpful. Sometimes you can glean things from the comments that students make. Dr. Wilkinson's office is trying to come up with a different way to do student evals. I am open to ideas on how to change them.
- c. Some went the extra mile and had peers evaluate faculty. I think that's a good idea, and we should do that, but how do we do that for very large departments? May have to alternate between Fall and Spring semester when peer evaluations are done, so that each faculty can have one, especially for junior faculty.
- d. Some of your responses were canned, and I caution you to be careful about copying and pasting.
- e. If a person is scored at a 2, by the Chair, according to the Faculty Handbook, the person should go on a professional development plan, within 2 weeks, even if the Dean changes the score. It can be in any of the 3 categories—teaching, research, or service. There was a lot of discussion around this topic.
  - i. Dr. Faltis—It would be nice to have a teaching evaluation instrument for online teaching because it is different from classroom in-person teaching.
- f. When a tenure or tenure-track faculty member scores a 2 in research (or in teaching), it is probably not wise for them to teach summer courses. An honest conversation should be had with the person. It's up to chairs and deans whether or not a person should teach in the summer. This includes if a person is straddling between a 2 and a 3. Even if a person has 5's in research for years, but there is no tangible product (only works in progress), they probably will not get tenured. The discussion was wide-ranging and included topics such as competency, productivity, and relevancy in scholarship and teaching, as well as expectations of tenure.

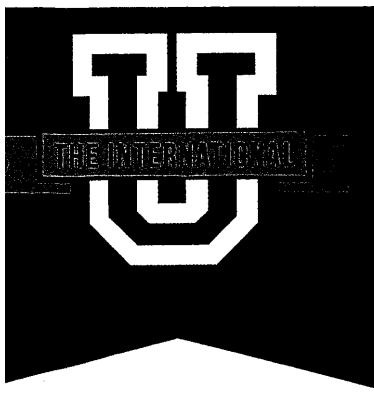
**2. High Research Productivity Scores and Research Release for Tenured Faculty—Dr. San Miguel**

- a. 2 consecutive years at a 9+ versus 3 consecutive years. What should the score be for 3 years for a course release? Should a score of 3 in research be considered? What do the rubrics in each department say? Several in attendance commented that the score should be a minimum of 4 in research. There was a lot of discussion, and then the discussion turned to CR2 in COAS.
- b. Discussion shifted to post tenure review and how the lottery for when reviews will happen will work.

3. Courses—Dr. Madden
  - a. Low enrollment course forms were sent on Monday and need to be returned by Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, for Maymester and Subterm I. Subsequent summer sessions will be reviewed 2 weeks before they begin.
  - b. There are closed sections across the university already for Fall. Those notices should be going out this week.
4. Commencement—Dr. San Miguel
  - a. Why is the morning ceremony (ARSSB, COED, CNHS) so sparsely attended? Could be that faculty attended in the Fall. Please investigate to see why.
  - b. Make sure you nominate someone every semester and work with your student respondents on their speeches.
5. Substantive Changes and Credentialing—Dr. Gonzalez
  - a. The deadline is approaching for substantive changes in programs (May 15).
    - i. Dr. Harris—please notify the library about these changes because a report from the library is required, and we need ample time to prepare that report (3 to 4 weeks).
  - b. Staff in Dr. Wilkinson's office will be giving Ari a report about new classes being taught that will trigger a credentialing form/review. This will begin this summer.
6. Changes to Faculty Assembly—Dr. San Miguel
  - a. The State of the University will be given at Assembly instead of at Convocation.
  - b. Faculty teaching awards will also be given.
7. LC and Transfer Pathways—Dr. Maddan
  - a. We are not transfer-friendly currently. Transfer Pathways attempts to map years 3 & 4 to what years 1 & 2 would be at TAMU. It attempts to make it easier for the student to see how their classes transfer.
8. Killam Downtown Revitalization Initiative—Dr. San Miguel
  - a. Cliffe Killam wants TAMU to establish an off-campus site to offer internships. The Killams have acquired properties downtown. Some of the properties are close to Laredo Center for the Arts, and the Justice Center, for example. If we were to offer programs, what type would they be? This will be 3 to 5 years in the future. Think about internships or capstone courses that could tie in to the proximity to properties downtown. Mr. Killam and the architect will present to the Faculty Senate.
9. Updates—Dr. San Miguel and all attendees
  - a. Dr. San Miguel and Mr. Castillo have put forth a request to the Board of Regents to recognize Dr. Arenaz as President Emeritus.
  - b. How do we conceptualize our student newspaper? I welcome ideas on what the newspaper should be, whether it's in print or digital.
  - c. Dr. Perez-Batres—SSB is considering a change in names of departments to Finance, Accounting, Marketing, and Economics (FAME). The other department will be Global Logistics, Analytics, Management (GLAM). Dr. Shonda Gibson, TAMU Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, congratulated an SSB initiative aligning with TAMU's QEP and the A&M system priorities by incentivizing faculty to integrate experiential learning opportunities, including the use of Coursera.

- d. Dr. Ruby Ynalvez—update on Cayuse. First training was on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be 1 or 2 more trainings. TAMU is part of the first cohort of schools in the system to migrate to the new system.
- e. Dr. Khasawne—software engineering students doing experiential learning were done in collaboration with the city health department, and the students were able to provide the department with automated solutions. Graduate program will launch in Fall 2026. The senior design presentation was very successful, and we want to have a more formal presentation in the future.
- f. Dr. Campbell—seniors had an art exhibition of their capstone works. It was amazing to see faculty coming in to bid on the works and support the students. Two visiting faculty members have an exhibit in the gallery using abandoned materials from around Laredo and painted them with mud from the area. An invitation was extended to view the exhibit.
- g. Dr. Ramirez—the Reading the Globe students leave to Chile on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Over the years, the amount of money that was budgeted was \$75,000, and this year it was \$128,000. UC is struggling with the sustainability of the program. Faculty are discussing the future of the program. Dr. San Miguel—maybe they don't have to travel to another country every year to learn about topics such as immigration and poverty. The College is rethinking the Signature Course curriculum.
- h. Dr. San Miguel—would like the Signature Courses to go back to an older version of the course, but make it easier and more attractive for faculty to pitch courses.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32.



# TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**Deans' Council**  
**May 7, 2025**  
**10:00am; KL 430**

- I. Faculty Evaluations
  - a. General comments
  - b. Student evaluations and peer teaching evaluations
  - c. Scores of 2 in any area (abide by Faculty Handbook-Professional Development Plan)
  - d. Summer teaching for tenure-track or tenured faculty who score low on research
- II. High Research Productivity Scores and Research Release for Tenured Faculty
  - a. Two consecutive years at 9+ versus three consecutive years at 12 or 13; should it include a research score of 3?
- III. Courses
  - a. Low Enrollment Requests
  - b. Closed sections
- IV. Commencement
  - a. Faculty attendance (11am -ARSSB/COED/CNHS = 33 total; 4pm - COAS/UC = 60 total)
  - b. Student respondents
- V. Substantive Changes and Credentialing
- VI. Changes to Faculty Assembly
- VII. LC and Transfer Pathway Plans
- VIII. Killam Downtown Revitalization Initiative
  - a. Internships
- IX. Updates
  - a. Dr. Arenaz and President Emeritus Status