

Texas A&M International University

Faculty Senate Agenda

Friday, May 2nd 2025

STC 230

Guests

I. Meeting called to order at 12:03PM

a. Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

- i. This morning, TAMIU received NSF notification that two grants will be terminated. One was in a project extension year at no cost, so it won't be impacted. The other one was reaching its tail end, so it's just about wrapped up and won't strand research. Awaiting information about other grants that we have, and may receive more such emails cancelling grants, but likely to be disputed in court actions against these cuts.
- ii. Library will be impacted by grant cuts. One grant funds a lot of database access, so we will probably experience loss of access to ERIC database, some social science databases. Dr. Harris is working with library deans across the system to determine what the impact will be and how to adjust.
- iii. Budget Advisory Committee is assembling list of priorities for next year. Each chair should have discussions with faculty about needs, then consult with deans, deans make a list of priorities, then send to provost, which then has priorities, etc., then sends to BAC.
- iv. Dr. Ruby Ynalvez is working on new Cayuse system for IRB protocols, with rollout for summer and fall. It will be an electronic portal with faster efficiencies.
- v. Interfolio—Dr. Maddan
 1. PPEs and P&T will move to Interfolio.
 2. P&T will go first for next fall.
 3. PPE will move to it in January
 4. Faculty profiles is the last element of this that will update the websites, aiming for February 2026 for that.
 5. Committees can also run paperwork through Interfolio.
 6. Dr. Maddan presented on Interfolio and its features, usability, demonstrated the platform, etc.

- a. Whatever is reflected in college PPE rubrics will have their own categories for you to upload to, with room for narratives at the top.
 - b. P&T and reclassification will be a similar process with a small repository (short binder application) and a larger repository (the documented evidence).
 - c. Course evaluations question: first year will have to download from AEFIS and then upload to Interfolio. We are looking at other vendors for evaluations to move away from Heliocampus
 - d. Interfolio goes with you—it's portable and individualized to faculty.
 - e. Can it be used for faculty awards process? Yes.
- vi. Research scores for high PPE and course releases for tenured faculty.
 - 1. Tenured faculty get course releases for 9+ on two consecutive years.
 - 2. Proposal was extended over 3 years, and to consider what the number would be. Dean's council meets on Wednesday and will discuss the scores on PPE. There is a reluctance to allow faculty releases who score 3s (so a combined 13 instead of a 12 over 3 years, for instance), but they will discuss at dean's council.
- b. Mr. Castillo, Interim President TAMIU
 - i. Search update from Vice Chancellor Hallmark, with an Oct. 1 start date for new president. Applications being submitted at this time. Airport interviews in July. August Board of Regents meeting would look to name by then. Some ambiguity about state legislature and other concerns regarding federal government.
 - ii. tamiupresident@anthemexecutive.com is the email to suggest candidates if you have them.
 - iii. Phone call with government relations team from system concerning budget bill for higher education.
 - 1. No movement on base funding in conference committee. They have removed institutional enhancement funding, which is 8 million dollars in the biennium. Senate Bill 37 is stalling progress on funding bill. 59 faculty, 21% of our faculty are funded. If this funding is cut, we would not eliminate 59 faculty, but would need to do significant budget

maneuvers to balance things. Concern is that if SB37 gobbles up the oxygen, then this will just get passed with the cuts.

2. New performance-based funding model being fielded to make up gap if it's put back

- a. Degree programs in high-demand fields
- b. Milestone achievements—once they hit 30SCH, 60, 90, etc.
 - i. Weighted for academically and economically disadvantaged students.
- c. Graduation efficiency, 4 and 6 year graduation rates.
- d. Plus hold harmless for next biennium, but we will need to see what the legislature ultimately decides.

3. SB37

- a. Where it was on Tuesday:
 - i. no general education curriculum review committee, has been stripped from bill, with BoR able to review every 5 years.
 - ii. Would submit a report to BoR for curriculum changes. Asking that we review our inventory more often.
 - iii. Review of minors will follow what's been put in place at A&M main.
 - iv. BoR would get involved in Provost hire, and would be able to overturn deans and other vice presidents.
 - v. Ombuds office for public complaints
 - vi. Until that bill makes it out, funding bill is held hostage.
 - vii. Faculty Senate will be authorized by BoR, the composition is up for debate and is being modified. There is concern by government relations teams to lobby against too many changes.
- b. House Bill re: Heath funding—PC refresh, other institutional funds, maintenance, library databases and library books etc.
 - i. These funds have been increased.
- c. No new construction in terms of capital projects.
- d. Competitive scholarship bill is moving: additional capacity for out of state students

- e. University of Houston-Victoria will join A&M university system with its own appropriations
 - f. Some telework bills moving but won't affect full time online faculty
 - g. Some bills for residency status for undocumented students, stripping them of in-state tuition rate.
- 4. An additional pillar of funding being proposed
- 5. Q&A
 - a. SB 37 is still in flux
 - b. Merit pay? Budget Advisory Committee met but we don't know what the budget will look like yet, so we don't have numbers. If there is new money, we will do our regular BAC process. Forms have been sent out for requests, but we don't know what the budget will be. Primary goal is to fund merit pool, but it's too early to tell what the budget outlook will be. They will try.
- c. Julien Carriere, Instructional Associate Professor of French & Italian, Chair of the Study Abroad Task Force, to discuss Proposal for a new TAMIU Faculty-led Study Abroad Handbook and Proposal for a TAMIU International Studies Committee:
 - i. Dr. Carriere presented on the ad hoc committee on study abroad, outlining the rationale for the committee's formation, noting the time crunch
 - ii. Two proposals
 - 1. Study Abroad Handbook
 - a. Dr. Carriere gave a background on study abroad, its potential, professional background, experiences at TAMIU, the importance of study abroad. Committee has met very frequently.
 - b. Equivalencies are a concern per THECB, but equivalency is possible. College Station is a top 5, and they've followed that model.
 - c. Have gotten very detailed on study abroad proposals that address administration's concerns. Contact hours, etc.
 - d. Can't make it identical, but they can make it equivalent with justification.
 - e. Want these new guidelines active for fall so it gives faculty time to apply to run a program and then recruit for their programs.
 - 2. Study Abroad Committee

- a. Standing subcommittee of faculty senate, with one delegate from each college plus 5 at large members ideally drawn from study abroad faculty
- b. Would review study abroad applications and send to the administration, but also would look at initiatives to broaden study abroad opportunities. Plus director of international experiences, with ex officio from registrar
- c. Why Faculty Senate?
 - i. This is a faculty process dealing with academic process and so they feel it is appropriate to deal with it in Senate

3. Q&A

- a. Committee would be a big lift, 13 members? Already had 7 on it in the provost's proposal.
- b. Only TAMIU members on the committee.
- c. Committee on committees met and discussed with Dr. J. Carriere, concerns about service load, perhaps a subcommittee on Distance Ed committee, then going to a university committee that isn't FS? Where will this committee be held?
- d. Would require a handbook change to create this new committee.
- e. Faculty asked questions and continued discussion of how the handbook and the proposed committee are related, work together, applications, review, how things interface with curriculum and scheduling.

II. Approval of April Minutes

- a. Sen. Rubel motions to approve, Sen. Bennett seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Acknowledgment of service on Faculty Senate

- a. Sen. Gill presented certificates of service to faculty senators.

IV. Old Business

a. Update on Higher Ed Bills in Texas Legislature

- i. Should SB37 pass, there will be an emergency meeting in the summer so we can discuss how to transition to the new model laid out in the bill.

b. Draft of Letter Concerning Drag Ban (tabled last session)

- i. Sen. Rubel noted that the court injunction that allowed Draggieland to proceed is temporary.
- ii. Debate and discussion followed concerning the higher education environment, politics of the moment, should we hold a faculty-wide vote.
- iii. Sen. Bennett noted that we as faculty senate can determine whether or not to vote to add it to the website.
- iv. Extensive and spirited debate continued concerning the pros and cons of issuing such a statement, the representation question of faculty senators and their constituencies.
- v. Dr. Gill moved to add statement to website, seconded by Hilburn, 9 in favor 4 opposed, 3 abstained.

V. New Business

a. Study Abroad Task Force

- i. Discussion ensued concerning study abroad task force.
- ii. Composition of committee was a concern, and the integration of the committee into the faculty senate committee.
- iii. Dr. Gill outlined several concerns about reconciling with administration concerns.
- iv. Spirited debate ensued concerning the feasibility of advancing the documents as they stand.
- v. Dr. Gill moved to table, Dr. Jorgensen seconded, 4 in favor, 7 against, 2 abstentions.
- vi. Further discussion ensued concerning committee, etc. We could keep committee ad hoc, we could make a senate ad hoc committee to bring in all parties to discuss and work out these concerns with administration.

vii. Dr. Gill moved to create a Senate ad hoc committee to bring administration together with the ad hoc study abroad committee and discuss proposals, Sen. Jorgensen seconded, 11 in favor, 2 abstained.

1. Sens. Gill, Hazelton, and Hilburn volunteered to serve on ad hoc committee to discuss

b. TAMIU SAP 07.01.99.L0.01 Ethics - Complying with Executive Order GA 48

i. Privacy concerns and research in “adversarial countries,” but we must comply with the new state policies.

c. COED Rubrics

i. COED faculty had numerous meetings about it, with 5 or 6 people showing consistently, and everyone has had the opportunity to review and vote.

ii. All COED faculty reviewed it and included feedback.

iii. Senators discussed the rubric.

iv. Sen. Garcia moved to approve, Sen. Bennett seconded, unanimously carried.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Academic Oversight

i. Full professor timeline moving to May. Went to provost’s office to see if there were conflicts with SAP. Came back with some edits.

ii. Has been brought back to Acad Oversight committee for discussion over the summer and will be taken up in Sept.

b. Budget and Finance

i. No report.

c. University Ethics

i. No report.

d. Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees

i. Elections are concluded, with one additional election for social sciences.

ii. Some offices will be pending until the fall. One is an at-large Senate position.

iii. Sen. Hilburn thanked Sen. Dalton for running the elections so capably.

e. Awards

i. No report.

f. Faculty Handbook

- i. Proposal to move the fixed term faculty appendix into a new chapter, with the reclassification policy.
 - g. Assessment
 - i. No report.
 - h. Distance Education and Instructional Technology
 - i. No report.
 - i. Technology Advisory Committee
 - i. Met with Gilberto Pérez to discuss VPAT and after-hours support.
 - ii. VPAT process changes are to be ready by end of summer, with trainings to follow.
 - j. Fixed-Term Faculty
 - i. No report.
- VII. Call to Order 2025-2026 Faculty Senate
 - a. Called to order.
- VIII. Office Elections: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Elections Officer and Parliamentarian
 - a. Dr. Gill was the only nominee was and was unanimously elected.
 - b. Dr. Norris was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
 - c. Dr. Hazelton was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
 - d. Dr. Dalton was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
- IX. Adjournment of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate
 - a. 2025-2026 Faculty Senate was adjourned
 - b. 2024-2025 Faculty Senate was called to order.
- X. Faculty Awards 2024-2025 Debate and Vote
 - a. Distinguished Scholar of the Year—voted and winner selected.
 - b. Distinguished Teacher of the Year—voted and winner selected.
 - c. Outstanding Teacher of the Year—voted and winner selected.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM