

Faculty Senate Meeting M INUTES

Meeting held on May 10, 2024

1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

Senators: Dr. Brian Billings, Dr. Jaime Cantrell (President) Dr. Katheryn Hartshorn, Selena Jeffries, Dr. Yusun Jung, Dr. Sara Lawrence, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. James Nguyen, Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. LuzMary Rincon (Secretary/Parliamentarian), Dr. Sebastian Schmidl, Dr. Laura Sykes, Dr. Faycal Znidi (Vice-President)

Invited Guests: Dr. Ross Alexander (President), Dr. Melinda Arnold (Provost), with Incoming Senators: Dr. Jan Murdock, Dr. Joy Cooper, Dr. Md. Uddin, Dr. Jing Chen, Dr. Deanna Robinson*, Dr. Susanne Tullos

*demarcates NOT in attendance on Zoom or in person

- I. Call to Order.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jaime Cantrell at 1:34pm.

- II. President’s Report.....Dr. Ross Alexander
 - a. Not in attendance, remarks relayed by Dr. Cantrell at 1:35pm.
 - b. On Tuesday, May 7 at their quarterly meeting, the TAMUS Board of Regents formally approved the construction of a new \$45,000,000 Business, Engineering & Technology Building on the TAMUT campus. A groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for May 30 and construction will begin in June. The building should be open in Summer 2026.
 - c. We will host Congressman Moran and a group of community leaders on campus on Monday, May 13 for a workforce and economic development forum. Congressman Moran has proven incredibly supportive of TAMUT, especially our workforce development efforts.
 - d. We are transitioning from Follett to Barnes and Noble for management of the University Bookstore. Over the summer, the space will undergo an expansion and renovation. We look forward to improved customer service and a vastly expanded variety of apparel and gear.
 - e. Also, over the summer, we will be adding three prominent fountains to Eagle Lake (including lighting).
 - f. Despite our best efforts, A&M Health will not be exploring a collaboration on the new Wadley Hospital site.

- III. Provost and VPAA’s Report.....Dr. Melinda Arnold
 - a. Faculty 2024-2025 appointment letters will be sent today and Monday.

- IV. Approval of Minutes from 4/12/2024.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - a. Minutes were approved.

- V. President of Faculty Senate Report.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - a. Convocation Ad Hoc Committee Update

Faculty Senate Meeting M INUTES

Meeting held on May 10, 2024

1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

- i. Convocation will take place August 25th, 2024 from 4:00-6:30pm in the Patterson Center with reception to follow in Eagle Hall. Drs. Alexander, Arnold, and Dr. Genia Bullock (Alumni Association President) have confirmed their attendance.
 - ii. Planning committee (Dr. Billings, Dr. Nakashian, Gigi Greco, Venus Lillis, Celeste McKnight, Dr. Sikorski, Orionna Williams SGA President) met on May 7th to discuss.
 - b. Senators with Terms Ending in May 2024
 - i. Thank you for your service to the Faculty Senate.
- VI. Committee Reports & Business Items
 - a. Curriculum Committee..... Dr. Godpower Okereke
 - i. Pulp and Paper Certificate Proposal, Engineering (CBET)
 1. Approved by Curriculum Committee and approved by consent agenda.
 - b. Core Curriculum Assessment.....Dr. LuzMary Rincon
 - c. Educational Technology.....Dr. Sebastian Schmidl
 - d. Academic Rules & Procedures.....Dr. Sara Lawrence
 - i. 12.06.99.H0, Post Tenure Review
 1. Approved by Academic Rules & Procedures and approved by consent agenda.
 - e. Academic Standards.....Dr. Sheila Moore
 - f. Faculty Welfare.....Dr. Brian Billings
 - i. Faculty Morale Survey Results
 1. Dr. Billings and Dr. Alford explained response rates in 2024/2023. Overall, continued and ongoing concerns relayed by faculty. Report was circulated to administration on 5/10/24 and Dr. Alexander acknowledged receipt.
 2. Dr. Okereke suggests town hall listening sessions for fall term.
 3. Faculty agree that concrete, actionable steps must be taken by administration to address issues.
 - g. FRED.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - i. Proposal from Dr. Farraj
 - ii. Proposal from Dr. Znidi
 - iii. Proposal from Dr. Nguyen
 1. All approved by consent agenda.
 - h. Budget Committee.....Dr. James Nguyen
 - i. Has not been able to receive CUPA data or budget from Dean.
 - i. Faculty Resources and Guidance.....Needs Chair
 - i. Faculty Handbook
- VII. Old Business
 - i. Regents Award Ad Hoc Committee
 1. Committee composed of Dr. Faycal, Dr. Rincon, Dr. Okereke. Nomination is Dr. Perri.
- VIII. New Business

Faculty Senate Meeting M INUTES

Meeting held on May 10, 2024

1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

- a. Faculty Senate Officers & Committee Chair Elections
 - i. Executive Officers
 - ii. President: TBD
 - iii. Vice President: Dr. LuzMary Rincon, serving as interim President
 - iv. Secretary/Parliamentarian: Dr. Jan Murdock
 - b. Committee Chairs
 - i. Curriculum Committee: Dr. Godpower Okereke
 - ii. Core Curriculum Assessment: Dr. LuzMary Rincon
 - iii. Educational Technology: Dr. Sebastian Schmidl
 - iv. Academic Rules & Procedures: Dr. Yusun Jung
 - v. Academic Standards: Dr. Jan Murdock
 - vi. Faculty Welfare: Dr. Brian Billings
 - vii. FRED: Dr. Md. Uddin
 - viii. Budget Committee: Selena Jefferies
 - ix. Faculty Resources & Guidance: TBD
 - c. Annual Performance Review Evaluations: Open-Floor Discussion
 - i. Dr. Morton voiced reasoning that Faculty Welfare Morale Survey responses would be even more disheartening if APR results had been circulated on time.
 - ii. Faculty are unclear on what guidelines and benchmarks constitute “exceeds expectations” and “meets expectations”.
 - iii. Faculty concerned about Chairs evaluating faculty then Deans reversing that score downward.
 - iv. Seems to be a systemic issue across both colleges. Some faculty have not yet received their APRs as of 5/10/24.
 - v. Faculty plan to seek clarification from Deans and VPAA in fall.
- IX. Next regular meeting of Faculty Senate: **September 13, 2024 from 1:30pm-3pm in UC251**