Dear Speaker Daugherty and Executive Committee:

The Academic Affairs Committee met on Monday, Aug. 19th, and reviewed the new UCC/GC Course Submission Checklist (see attached). This was done at the request of Dr. Tim Scott, Dr. Sarah Bednarz, and Dr. Pam Matthews, particularly in reference to the Minimum Syllabus Requirements. There was discussion regarding the use of terminology of “Learning Objectives”, “Learning Outcomes”, and “Course Objectives, and which was appropriate/correct. In an effort to a) use current educational vernacular, b) better define what information was actually desired on a syllabus, c) meet SACS accreditation guidelines, and d) most importantly, to align with language in Texas State Law, it was agreed upon to use the terminology of “Learning Outcomes” (This is relevant to undergraduate courses only.) These outcomes must be measureable and observable. The committee (and our guests) were adamant that the actual specific language to be used for learning outcomes should not be mandated, but rather should be left up to each entity to best reflect its genre (ex.: Engineering learning outcomes vs. English outcomes, v. Biology outcomes, etc.) The TAMU Office of Institutional Assessment and the Center for Teaching Excellence could both provide valuable guidance for those needing assistance in developing/writing Learning Outcomes. As such, AAC voted to accept and endorse the attached UCC/GC Course Submission Checklist and Minimum Syllabus Requirements. It is our request that this item be placed on the Sept. Faculty Senate for Senate approval. Please let me know if you need any further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Melinda Grant, Chair
Academic Affairs Committee
TAMU Faculty Senate