

TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2019

3:00pm

Rudder 601

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Andrew Klein called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

GUEST SPEAKER

Speaker Klein introduced guest speaker Chancellor John Sharp, and welcomed him to the podium.

Chancellor Sharp began by defining his role as Chancellor as “securing the resources that the campus needs to survive.” He spoke about:

- The success of recruiting National Academy Members – eight years ago we had 11 and we currently have 37, soon to be 38.
- The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) program has brought in a couple of those faculty, and the Chancellor’s Research Initiative also brought 28 faculty to TAMU.
- 86% of the Governor’s University Research Initiative (GURI) grants were awarded to TAMU, and one National Academy Member came through GURI.
- Nine of the Faculty Fellows from the Hagler Institute joined the TAMU faculty resulting in \$54 million in new grants.
- At the Provost’s request, the Enhancing Development and Generating Excellence in Scholarship (EDGES) fellowships were created for up-and-coming faculty members who are doing outstanding work in their fields.
- The Texas Legislature approved a record \$211 million in funding for TAMU institutions, and Texas A&M University received an extra \$55 million to address per student funding equity.
- The RELLIS campus has academic and research components; the research aspect is drawing a large group of industries to RELLIS.
- One of these, the Army Futures Command (AFC), has asked Texas A&M to look at hypersonics and directed energy, new technologies that will help the AFC modernize the nation’s armed forces. The University has received \$65 million federal grant from Department of Defense in support of these initiatives, and we are likely to receive more.
- Our partnership with Los Alamos National Lab offers many opportunities for joint research and internships.
- The Intergenerational Childcare Development Center is another project underway, as well as the EnMed initiative, which is drawing attention from top universities across the country. TAMU is also a part of TMC3, a research consortium of medical schools and health science centers. We own the land in Houston, and are partnering to build a new residence facility for health science students in Houston for EnMed and Nursing students.

Chancellor Sharp then fielded questions from the following Senators:

- Jorge Alvarado, College of Engineering
- Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences
- Geoffrey Booth, College of Architecture
- Jim Woosley, College of Education & Human Development

Speaker Klein thanked Chancellor Sharp for speaking to the Senate.

(The TTVN feed went out at 3:35pm, near the end of questions from Senators.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies, briefly discussed the new Mandatory Fees that are required to be paid for graduate students. The details of the mandate and guidelines for Texas A&M University PHD students employed in GAT, GAL, and GAR positions will soon be finalized and communicated by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS). Dr. Butler-Purry responded to questions from a number of Senators.

Cyn Olvera, University Youth Programs Office, briefly discussed System Regulation 24.01.08 – Minors in Labs, and how her office can support faculty who anticipate having minors in labs.

SPEAKER COMMENTS

Speaker Klein started by recognizing veterans in the room.

- He will be convening a committee to examine minimum syllabus requirements, and asked for participants to volunteer and/or recommendations of faculty to serve.
- He thanked the members of the Bylaws and Election Committees who continue to work on amending election procedures and bylaws, and whose chairs would be reporting later in the meeting.
- He thanked Senators Jay Ramadoss and Bobby Reece for working with Kristin Harrell from Student Affairs on the revision to Student Rule 24.7, appearing on the agenda later in the meeting.

Speaker Klein stated that December's guest speaker will be Dr. James Hallmark, the TAMU System vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and closed his remarks by soliciting suggestions for guest speakers for the spring.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion passed to approve the October 14, 2019 minutes as distributed. **Attachment A – Passed**

CONSENT AGENDA Attachments B-Z – Passed (Full *Consent Agenda* with FS #'s can be found below *Adjournment*.)

The motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Speaker Klein highlighted two courses, SCEN 101 & 102: Contemporary Issues in Science: Cosmos, Earth and Humanity & the Environment. The courses attempt to create an informed citizenry on important scientific issues. They have also been approved as core curriculum courses.

He then encouraged other Senators to highlight curricular items from their own colleges to help make more visible this important work of the Senate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Core Curriculum Council Course Report - *Attachment AA – Passed – FS.37.087*

The motion passed to approve the Core Curriculum Course Report as presented. (CCC Report with FS # can be found below *Adjournment*.)

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws and Election Committees Report - *Attachment BB – For Informational Review Only – FS.37.088*

Bylaws Committee Chair Bruce Neville and Election Committee Chair Tommy McDonald presented the proposed revisions to the Bylaws and Constitution recommended by the two committees, and announced a survey would be emailed shortly asking Senators to weigh in on these proposed revisions to better inform the committees' work. A variety of questions and concerns were fielded, which would be reflected in the survey.

(The TTVN feed resumed at 4:42pm, during the Committees' Report.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Student Rule 24.7 - Amnesty – *Attachment CC – Passed – FS.37.089*

This rule was tabled at the May 13, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting and returned to the Senate for a vote after revisions by the Academic Affairs Committee in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs. The motion passed to approve Student Rule 24.7 – Amnesty as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS

Disability Resources Proposed Syllabus Statement – *Attachment DD – Passed – FS.37.090*

This statement was presented for review at the October 14, 2019 Senate meeting, and appeared on the November agenda for a vote. Attachment W, Disability Resources Proposed Syllabus Statement, was approved.

Proposed Revisions to Aggie Honor System and Student Rules

Aggie Honor System Rule 20 – *Attachment EE – Passed – FS.37.091*

Aggie Honor System Rule 20.1.4.7 – *Attachment FF – Passed – FS.37.092*

Aggie Honor System Rules 20.1.4.3 and 20.1.4.4 – *Attachment GG – Passed – FS.37.093*

Student Rule 10.4.2 – *Attachment HH – Passed – FS.37.094*

Recommendation of December 2019 Degree Candidates

The motion to certify the following December 2019 Degree Candidates was approved.

TOTAL: 5,445

Agriculture – 712
Architecture - 313
Bush School – 36
Business – 589
Dentistry – 1
Education – 742
Engineering – 1,398
Geosciences – 142
Law – 29
Liberal Arts - 812
Medicine – 5
Nursing – 31
Public Health – 60
Science – 208
Vet Med – 197
TAMU-Galveston – 166
TAMU-Qatar – 4

Comments on Agenda Changes

There was a brief discussion on the new presentation of Consent Agenda items on the November Senate Agenda. There were no objections to using the curricular URL hyperlinks instead of the previous practice of creating large pdfs of all curricular items and their supporting documents.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Speaker-Elect John Stallone convened the Committee of the Whole.

Len Bierman, Mays Business School

Senator Bierman shared concerns about students seeing a “B” grade as bad, and raised the possibility of adding “plus” and “minus” grades to help differentiate grades.

Jorge Alvarado, College of Engineering

Senator Alvarado concurred, stating that it was time for Texas A&M to add these.

John Stallone, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biological Sciences

Speaker-Elect Stallone shared his experience of the Academic Affairs Committee taking up this issue ten years ago, and the Student Senate unanimously voted against doing so. Some back and forth by these three Senators and Senator Angie Hill Price ensued about exactly what happened and the pros and cons of such a change.

Speaker-Elect John Stallone turned the meeting back over to Speaker Klein.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.

ATTACHMENTS BELOW: Approved Consent Agenda, Core Curriculum Council Report

CONSENT AGENDA

GRADUATE COUNCIL

New Courses – *Attachment B – Passed – FS.37.062*

[RPTS 614: Research Methods in Tourism, Hospitality, Park and Event Management](#)
[WFSC 631: Ecological Applications in R](#)

Change in Courses – *Attachment C – Passed – FS.37.063*

[MSCI 601: Contemporary Topics in Advanced Cell Biology I](#)
[PHEB 621: Foundations of Maternal and Child Health](#)
[SCSC 628: Soil Mineralogy Lab](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment D – Passed – FS.37.064*

School of Public Health

Epidemiology & Biostatistics

[CERT-MACH: Maternal and Child Health - Certificate](#)

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Courses – *Attachment E – Passed – FS.37.065*

[AFST 484: Internship](#)
[ENGL 220: Graphic Novel](#)
[ENGL 435: Advanced Studies in Creative Writing](#)
[FILM 469: Cult Cinema](#)
[INTS 300: International Experience](#)
[LMAS 484: Internship](#)
[PSYC 425: Psychology of Emotion](#)
[RELS 484: Internship](#)
[SCEN 101: Contemporary Issues in Science: Cosmos, Earth and Humanity](#)
[SCEN 102: Contemporary Issues in Science: The Environment](#)

Change in Courses – *Attachment F – Passed – FS.37.066*

[BIOL 206: Introductory Microbiology](#)
[BIOL 213: Molecular Cell Biology](#)
[COMM 324: Communication Leadership and Conflict Management](#)
[COMM 420: Gender and Communication](#)
[COMM 443: Communication and Conflict](#)
[ENGL 206: Twenty-first Century Literature and Culture](#)
[ENGL 390: Studies in British Literature](#)
[ENTO 305: Evolution of Insect Structure](#)
[GEOS 210: Climate Change](#)
[HHUM 107: Introduction to the Health Humanities](#)
[MATH 140: Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences](#)
[MATH 170: Freshman Mathematics Laboratory](#)
[MATH 415: Modern Algebra I](#)
[RENR 205: Fundamentals of Ecology](#)
[RENR 215: Fundamentals of Ecology--Laboratory](#)
[RPTS 307: Interpretation of Natural and Cultural Resources](#)
[VTPP 427: Biomedical Physiology II](#)

Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Attachment G – Passed – FS.37.067*

College of Science

Department of Mathematics

[MATH 131: Mathematical Concepts—Calculus](#)

Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Attachment H – Passed – FS.37.068*

College of Science

Department of Mathematics

[MATH 166: Topics in Contemporary Mathematics II](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment I – Passed – FS.37.069*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Horticultural Sciences

[BA-HORT: Horticulture - BA](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment J – Passed – FS.37.070*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Horticultural Sciences

[BS-HORT: Horticulture - BS](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment K – Passed – FS.37.071*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Nutrition & Food Science

[BS-NUTR-GNO: Nutrition - BS, General Nutrition Track](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment L – Passed – FS.37.072*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[BS-PSSC-CRP: Plant and Environmental Soil Science - BS, Crops Emphasis](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment M – Passed – FS.37.073*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[BS-PSSC-SWR: Plant and Environmental Soil Science - BS, Soil and Water Emphasis](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment N – Passed – FS.37.074*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[BS-TGSC: Turfgrass Science - BS](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment O – Passed – FS.37.075*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

[BS-WFSC-FAS: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences - BS, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences Track](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment P – Passed – FS.37.076*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

[BS-WFSC-VZY+: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences - BS, Vertebrate Zoology Option](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment Q – Passed – FS.37.077*

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

[BS-WFSC-WEC+: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences - BS, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Option](#)

Change in Programs – *Attachment R – Passed – FS.37.078*

College of Science

Department of Biology

[BS-ZOOL: Zoology - BS](#)

Change in Programs – Galveston – *Attachment S – Passed – FS.37.079*

College of Galveston

Department of Liberal Studies

[BA-MAST: Maritime Studies - BA](#)

Change in Programs – Galveston – *Attachment T – Passed – FS.37.080*

College of Galveston

Department of Maritime Business Administration

[BS-MBAL: Maritime Business Administration Lower-Level](#)

Change in Programs – Galveston – *Attachment U – Passed – FS.37.081*

College of Galveston

Department of Liberal Studies

[BS-USGA-MLP*: University Studies - BS, Marine Environmental Law and Policy Concentration](#)

Change in Programs – Galveston – *Attachment V – Passed – FS.37.082*

College of Galveston

Department of Maritime Business Administration

[MINOR-MBAU: Maritime Business Administration - Minor](#)

Program Inactivation Proposal – Galveston – *Attachment W – Passed – FS.37.083*

College of Galveston

Department of Liberal Studies

[BS-USGA-MPC*: University Studies - BS, Maritime Public Policy and Communication Concentration](#)

W&C COURSES

Courses Submitted for C Certification – *Attachment X – Passed – FS.37.084*

[ACCT 421-C: Critical Communication Skills for Accountants](#)

[ARCH 305-C: Architectural Design III](#)

[ISEN 460-C: Capstone Senior Design](#)

[MATH 442-C: Mathematical Modeling](#)

[NFSC 491-C: Research](#)

Courses Submitted for W Certification – *Attachment Y – Passed – FS.37.085*

[ALEC 450-W: Global Social Justice Issues in Agriculture](#)

[ANSC 481-W: Seminar](#)

[ANSC 491-W: Research](#)

[AREN 200-W: Architectural Engineering Foundations](#)

[BIOL 402-W: Communicating Biological Research to the Public](#)

[COMM 443-W: Communication and Conflict](#)

[COMM 450-W: Media Campaigns](#)

[COMM 453-W: Communication and Video Games](#)

[COMM 480-W: Religious Communication](#)

[COSC 222-W: Cultural Social Issues in the History of the Construction Environment: From Antiquity to Today](#)

[CVEN 424-W: Civil Engineering Professional Practice](#)

[ESSM 406-W: Natural Resources Policy](#)

[ESSM 415-W: Range Analysis and Management Planning](#)

[ESSM 430-W: Advanced Restoration Ecology](#)

[ESSM 464-W: Spatial Project Management](#)

[GEOL 210-W: Geological Communication](#)
[INTS 403-W: Nations and Nationalisms](#)
[ISEN 330-W: Human Systems Interaction](#)
[MATH 300-W: Foundations of Mathematics](#)
[MATH 491-W: Research](#)
[MGMT 373-W: Managing Human Resources](#)
[OCEN 410-W: Ocean Engineering Laboratory](#)
[PHIL 482-W: Ethics and Engineering](#)
[PHIL 485-W: Directed Studies](#)
[PHIL 491-W: Research](#)
[POLS 200-W: Foundations of Political Science](#)
[POLS 350-W: Modern Political Thought](#)
[RDNG 373-W: Teaching Reading Through Children's Literature](#)
[SCSC 311-W: Principles of Crop Production](#)
[SOC 404-W: Sociology of the Community](#)

Courses Submitted for W Certification—Galveston – *Attachment Z – Passed – FS.37.086*

[MARB 435-W: Marine Invertebrate Zoology](#)
[MARE 452-W: Senior Design Project II](#)

End of Consent Agenda

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT – *Attachment AA – Passed – FS.37.087*

New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture

[COSC 222-GE: Cultural Social Issues in the History of the Construction Environment: From Antiquity to Today](#)

New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Life & Physical Sciences

[SCEN 101-GE: Contemporary Issues in Science: Cosmos, Earth, Humanity](#)
[SCEN 102-GE: SCEN102: Contemporary Issues in Science: The Environment](#)

New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Social & Behavioral Sciences - Galveston

[MARS 210-GE: Marine Geography](#)

New Courses – Cultural Diversity

[COSC 222-CD: Cultural Social Issues in the History of the Construction Environment: From Antiquity to Today](#)
[GEOL 160-CD: Natural Disasters](#)
[PERF 223-CD: Aesthetics of Activism](#)
[SOC 240-CD: Tourism, Culture, and Place](#)
[URPN 240-CD: More Than Monuments: Preservation as Social Justice](#)
[VTPB 303-CD: Medical Communication in the International Community](#)

New Courses – International and Cultural Diversity

[DCED 202-ICD: Dance Appreciation](#)
[IBUS 456-ICD: European Integration and Business](#)
[RELS 200-ICD: Religions of the World](#)
[RELS 200-ICD: Religions of the World](#)
[RELS 222-ICD: History of Christianity, Reformation to Present](#)