

TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

3:00pm

Via Zoom

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

The full video recording of the meeting can be accessed on the Faculty Senate website:

<https://facultysenate.tamu.edu/Faculty-Senate-Meeting-Recordings>.

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker John N. Stallone called the eleventh meeting of the 38th Session to order at 3:00pm. Due to ongoing social distancing practices resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via Zoom. Speaker Stallone reminded Senators of the Zoom features to be used during the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

Speaker Stallone welcomed guest speaker Mr. Tyson Voelkel, President and CEO of the Texas A&M Foundation. Mr. Voelkel updated the Senate on current and recent fundraising by the Foundation. (*The presentation may be accessed here.*) After thanking faculty for their support, he shared information about the Lead by Example campaign and encouraged faculty to partner with the Foundation for support with their development efforts. Highlights from his presentation included:

- \$4.25 billion raised between January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2020, with faculty and staff contributing over \$62M.
- There are five affiliated organizations raising funds for Texas A&M: the Foundation, the Association of Former Students, the 12th Man Foundation, the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, and the George & Barbara Bush Foundation.
- The Texas A&M Foundation contributed \$2.6 billion to the Lead by Example campaign.
- The Foundation wants to partner more effectively with faculty. Of the 3,364 new endowments created during the campaign, 127 were faculty chairs, professorships, and fellowships.
- He encouraged faculty to reach out to him with any questions or ideas.

Mr. Voelkel took questions from the following Senators: Senator Clint Magill, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences; Senator Matt Taylor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences; Senator Allen Honeyman, College of Dentistry; and Senator Joan Wolf, College of Liberal Arts.

Speaker Stallone thanked Mr. Voelkel for speaking to the Faculty Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jocelyn Widmer, Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation, and **Dr. Juan Garza**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services & Director of Provost Information Technology Office – [Attachment A – FS.38.563 \(for information only\)](#)

Dr. Widmer provided her monthly update on the progress of Canvas (LMS) via a video, and the meeting time was devoted to questions only. The following Senators posed questions or offered comments: Senator Stephen Alton, School of Law; Senator Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts, and Senator Matt Taylor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

SPEAKER COMMENTS

Speaker Stallone began his comments by thanking Senators for attending the Joint Meeting of the Faculty Senate and UT Faculty Council, held virtually via Zoom on Monday, March 29th. He then reminded all that Senate elections were in process, to be followed by the officer and Executive Committee nominations and elections, encouraging Senators to consider running for these leadership roles.

The call for nominations for Senate awards were announced and donations requested for the Aggie Spirit Awards. Senate committee chairs were asked to prepare their reports for the year and they will be presenting the reports at the May meeting.

He shared that the appointment of the new TAMU President was official: Dr. Katherine Banks, current Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Engineering, would be taking on the new role in June. He welcomed her and expressed that the Faculty Senate was looking forward to working with her.

Speaker Stallone stated that the end of the year was almost here, and congratulated faculty for persevering for another year through the challenges of COVID-19. He thanked Dean Shawn Gibbs, Dean of the School of Public Health, and faculty, staff, and students within the Health Sciences Center who have been on the front lines administering the COVID vaccines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion passed to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes as distributed. **Attachment B – Passed – FS.38.564**

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion passed to approve the April 12, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented.

*(Full **Consent Agenda** with FS #'s can be found under **Adjournment** below.)*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of Revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution – Attachment C – Tabled (Proposal 1 failed) – FS.38.576

Speaker Stallone recognized Mr. Greg Hartman, Senior Vice President and CEO of Texas A&M Health, and Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives for the System, who provided input related to the College of Medicine representation on the Faculty Senate. A question was directed to him by Senator Richard Waer, College of Engineering, after which discussion was halted so that the proposals could first be introduced.

Speaker Stallone then introduced Senator Bruce Neville, University Libraries, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, to review the set of proposals discussed at the last Senate meeting in March. After the proposals were reviewed, Proposal 1 was moved and brought to discussion. There was no discussion, the vote was taken, and failed to pass.

There was much discussion concerning the lack of attendance at the meeting, and how this impacts constitutional voting which requires two-thirds of the Senate membership to pass an amendment. Tabling was discussed, and what this would mean for this set of proposals. A formal motion to table Attachment C was made, seconded, and voted upon. The motion to table Attachment C was passed. Speaker Stallone thanked Bylaws Committee Chair Bruce Neville for all of his work on these amendments.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Core Curriculum Council Course Report – *Attachment D – Passed – FS.38.577*

The motion passed to approve the Core Curriculum Course Report as presented.

(Full CCC Report can be found under Adjournment below.)

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (SEBAC REPORT) – *Attachment E – For Informational Review – FS.38.578*

Senator Greg Heim, Mays Business School, presented information from the February 2021 SEBAC meeting, found in Attachment E. Questions were then asked by Senator Adam Kolasinski, Mays Business School; and Senator Rosemary Walzem, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Athlete Competition Absence Agreement – *Attachment F – For Informational Review – FS.38.579*

This document was brought to the Senate by the Athletics Council for comments and feedback. The form was created to initiate constructive discussion between student-athletes and their professors at the beginning of the semester regarding absences. Comments were made by Senator Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering; Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences; and Senator Sara Rowe, College of Liberal Arts.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Speaker-Elect Dale Rice convened the Committee of the Whole.

Senator Patti Smith, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, read a statement from a faculty member in her college regarding the health accommodations for the fall 2021 semester, urging administrators to reconsider some cases such as pregnant and/or nursing women, and immuno-compromised individuals, and the deadlines for determining how courses will be taught.

Senator Joan Wolf, College of Liberal Arts, shared information about women and girls who have serious caregiving responsibilities, suggesting this population be allowed to register for courses early along with student-athletes.

Senator Beth McNeill passed along a statement from a colleague regarding going back to “normal” courses in the fall, and the conflicting information from administration, causing extra work for faculty.

Senator Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences, commented on the difficulty passing an innocuous revision to the Constitution due to inadequate attendance at Faculty Senate meetings. He encouraged people to discuss with their caucus that their attendance is critical to the function of shared governance. Senator Adam Kolasinski, Mays Business School, also expressed concern about lack of attendance and wondered if there were any processes in place for addressing chronic absenteeism. Speaker-Elect Rice shared some past practices, as did Senator Clint Magill, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Senator Andy Banerjee, College of Engineering, expressed concern about receiving emails from third-party vendors, and wondered if TAMU is selling email addresses. Senator Allen Honeyman, College of Dentistry, was also concerned and wondered if spam filters were doing their job. Senator Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences, agreed that the sale of email addresses should be looked into but that spam filters are working, as most mail is spam and what is received has been filtered. Senator Greg Heim, Mays Business School, shared that the Budget Information Committee addressed this with the CIO and learned that 95% of outside email is spam or an attack, so it is a “Herculean task.” Senator Honeyman stated that the College of Dentistry faculty receive spam from within the University, for example, emails targeting undergraduates when his college has no undergraduates, and suggested that distribution lists need to be better tailored. Senator Danny Davis, Bush School, suggested that the Senate bring in a representative from IT or cybersecurity to better inform the Senate on this issue.

Speaker-Elect Rice returned the meeting to Speaker Stallone.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA for April 12, 2021

GRADUATE COUNCIL

New Courses – Passed – FS.38.565

[ATTR 645: Corrective Techniques and Progressive Exercise for Return to Function](#)

[INTA 712: A Non-Technical Introduction to Cyber Policy](#)

[MSEN 630: Nanomaterials Science](#)

[NURS 728: Organizational and Systems Leadership](#)

[NURS 734: Healthcare Policy and Economics](#)

[NURS 739: Residency in Advanced Nursing Practice](#)

[PERF 624: Performance and Aesthetics](#)

[PETE 678: Resource Shale Petrophysics](#)

Change in Courses – Passed – FS.38.566

[NUEN 604: Radiation Interactions and Shielding](#)

[PERF 691: Research](#)
[PHEB 618: Spatial Epidemiology](#)

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.567

[AGEC 316: Building Customer Relationships in AgriFood Selling](#)
[FINC 341: Business Finance](#)
[HIST 402: History of Modern Germany](#)
[IBUS 459: Latin American Markets](#)
[MGMT 363: Managing People in Organizations](#)
[MKTG 321: Marketing](#)
[RDNG 468: Essential Foundations of Language and Literacy for All Learners](#)
[SPAN 407: Spanish-English Translation](#)

Change in Courses – Galveston – *Passed* – FS.38.568

[MARB 310: Introduction to Cell Biology](#)
[MARB 335: Fish Physiology](#)

Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.569

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Performance Studies

[MUSC 200: Topics in Music](#)

Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.570

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Performance Studies

[MUSC 400: Senior Seminar and Project](#)

Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.571

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Performance Studies

[RPTS 408: Community Development and Supporting Institutions](#)

Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.572

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-HLTH-SCH: Health - BS, School Health Track](#)

Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.573

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-KINE-PEK: Kinesiology - BS, All-Level Physical Education Teacher Certification Track](#)

W&C COURSES

Courses Submitted for W Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.574

[GEOG 430-W: Environmental Justice](#)

Courses Submitted for W Re-Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.575

[MKTG 448-W: Marketing Strategy](#)
[ECON 465-W: Contemporary Economic Issues](#)

CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT – *Attachment D – Passed* – FS.38.577

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Creative Arts

[PERF 201-GE: Music and the Human Experience](#)

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture

[ENGL 202-GE: Environmental Literature](#)

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Mathematics

[MATH 171-GE: Calculus I](#)

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

[SOCI 207-GE: Introduction to Gender and Society](#)

[SPMT 304-GE: Sport Psychology Management and Practice](#)