

TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 8, 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 tenth 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, with a special focus on the new location of the raise hands feature, then a new Senator was sworn in.

GUEST SPEAKER

Speaker Stallone welcomed guest speaker Ms. Debbie Hoffman, Director, Transportation Services. Ms. Hoffman presented the Transportation Mobility Master Plan for the College Station campus. (*The presentation may be accessed here.*) She covered:

- The scope of the plan.
- The three-phase process including Phase 1, Discovery and Diagnosis; Phase 2, Scenario and Future Planning; and Phase 3, Plan Development and Path Forward. Transportation Services is currently in Phase 1.
- The objectives, which include increasing access while reducing traffic and anticipating future demand.
- Communications and engagement with the campus community. Transportation Service's "Aggies on the MOVE" website is the hub for these.
- Walker Consultants conducted three opportunities for virtual engagement, collecting feedback on the possible successes and the fears related to the project.
- Transportation Services is moving into Phase 2, creating scenarios based on data analysis from the first phase, to be followed by feedback on the scenarios and final recommendations in Phase 3.

Ms. Hoffman encouraged anyone who is interested in the plan to request engagement from Transportation Services. She then took questions from the following Senators: Senator Clint Magill, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences; and Senator Matthew Taylor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Speaker Stallone thanked Ms. Hoffman 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.38.542 (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 Matthew Taylor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and Senator Janice Epstein, College of Science.

SPEAKER COMMENTS

Speaker Stallone commented that the COVID vaccine seemed to be arriving in Texas and vaccination hubs were busy scheduling shots. He encouraged everyone to continue to follow the CDC guidelines regarding masking, social distancing, and hand-washing even after receiving the vaccine.

He shared that the appointment of the new TAMU President was announced: Dr. Katherine Banks, current Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Engineering. He welcomed her and expressed that the Faculty Senate was looking forward to working with her.

The Joint Meeting of the Faculty Senate and UT Faculty Council, originally scheduled for February 22nd was postponed until Monday, March 29th in an effort to allow Senators to catch up after the winter storm. He shared the agenda.

Speaker Stallone expressed the hope that Senators were able to pick up the no-cost surplus masks made available to the TAMU community last month.

He announced the second Open Forum with Interim President Junkins and Interim Provost Weichold, to be held at 11am on Wednesday, March 10, encouraging everyone to make sure their colleagues are aware of the forum.

His next announcement was that the Faculty Senate, with support from the Provost's Office, had funds available for faculty enduring hardship due to the recent winter storm. He encouraged those in need to apply for the funds, reminding Senators that an anonymous donation of \$54,000 was given via the Foundation to assist faculty and staff impacted by COVID-19. Applications for the Faculty Emergency Fund (FEF) could be accessed via the email sent out by the Dean of Faculties.

Speaker Stallone reminded Senators that the nomination period for open Senate places and seats on University Committees had begun, encouraging everyone to speak to their colleagues about serving in these important roles.

The Senate Select Committee on Faculty Investigations held their first meeting the week prior. Speaker Stallone would be providing updates on this committee's work.

He thanked Student Affairs for all their work in supporting students struggling with both COVID-related challenges and those impacted by the winter storm.

In closing, Speaker Stallone thanked everyone for their efforts to maintain safe conditions on campus as the pandemic continues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion passed to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as distributed. ***Attachment B – Passed – FS.38.543***

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion passed to approve the March 8, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Core Curriculum Council Course Report – *Attachment C – Passed – FS.38.560*

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

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

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Faculty Senate Membership in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics – *Attachment D – Tabled – FS.38.561*

Senator Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences, and a current Board member of COIA, presented this item. He recommended that the TAMU Faculty Senate become a member of the Coalition. A discussion by Senators followed, resulting in confusion over the Coalition's stance regarding student athletes. In light of this, a motion was made to table the item until the following month so that greater clarity could be had. The motion was approved, and Attachment D was tabled.

Approval of Revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution – *Attachment E – Postponed – FS.38.562*

Senator Bruce Neville, University Libraries and Chair of the Bylaws Committee, presented the process of amending the Constitution, the proposed timeline, and the series of proposals before the Senate. Some were characterized as minor, while others represented major changes to the Senate Constitution.

A motion was made to divide the question, meaning the block of five “minor” items would be voted on as one item, while the remainder of the proposals would be voted on individually. Following these votes, another motion would then be made on how to move the approved items on to the full faculty. This motion passed.

There was a great deal of discussion over the procedure for approving these constitutional items. Based on the Senate Constitution and Bylaws, it was determined that the written proposal must be presented and discussed at a regularly scheduled Senate meeting, then be voted upon at the following month’s meeting.

Senator Neville proceeded to present the remaining proposals, with each resulting in an extended discussion of the pros and cons of the potential revision. In all, approximately an hour and one quarter was spent discussing these constitutional revisions.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Senator Kathryn Galvo, TAMU Galveston, asked if it might be possible for the Senate to look into a different platform for voting, as Zoom is not the best option for this. Senator Janice Epstein, College of Science, echoed this opinion. Senator Adam Kolasinski, Mays Business School, shared that his college uses Qualtrics and it works very well. Senator Andy Tag, College of Science, pointed out some logistical problems of the Senate using Qualtrics.

Senator Larry Fickel, College of Architecture, recommended to the Executive Committee to work with the university administration on the need for a single mode of communication to faculty, staff, and students in cases such as the recent winter storm.

Senator Allen Honeyman, College of Dentistry, expressed on behalf of his college a sincere thanks to the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Pharmacy who, on two weekends, traveled from south Texas to Dallas to vaccinate the entire College of Dentistry.

Speaker-Elect Rice returned the meeting to Speaker Stallone.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA for March 2021

New Courses – Passed – FS.38.544

[ATTR 642: Clinical Decision Making and Evidence Based Practice I](#)

[ATTR 643: Clinical Decision Making and Evidence Based Practice II](#)

[ATTR 646: Transition to Practice](#)

[ATTR 650: Emergency Management](#)

[ATTR 674: Behavioral Health](#)

[ATTR 675: Evidence Based Practice and Clinical Research](#)

[ATTR 676: Performance Enhancement in Sport](#)

[ATTR 677: Research Capstone](#)

[CSCE 748: Computational Photography](#)

[CSCE 752: Robotics and Spatial Intelligence](#)
[ECEN 733: Advanced Micromachining Technologies for the Informational Era](#)
[ECEN 743: Reinforcement Learning](#)
[HPCH 630: Qualitative Methods in Applied Community Research](#)
[INTA 709: China's Military](#)
[INTA 716: Latin America - Democracy and Development](#)
[ISEN 633: Biomechanics of Work](#)
[ISEN 634: Human Performance Modeling](#)
[NURS 725: Theoretical Foundations of Healthcare](#)
[NURS 726: Principles of Translational Science](#)
[NURS 727: Applications of Translational Science](#)
[NURS 729: Analytic Methods for Research and Evidence Based Practice](#)
[NURS 730: Informatics](#)
[NURS 731: Quality and Outcome Improvements in Healthcare](#)
[NURS 732: Transformational Leadership in Nursing](#)
[NURS 733: Clinical Prevention and Population Outcome Improvement](#)
[NURS 735: Scholarly Project Practicum I](#)
[NURS 736: Scholarly Project Practicum II](#)
[NURS 737: Scholarly Project Practicum III](#)
[NURS 738: Scholarly Project Practicum IV](#)
[PHEB 617: Research Integrity, Transparency and Reproducibility](#)

Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.545

[BIED 685: Directed Studies](#)
[BIED 691: Research](#)
[ECEN 637: Numerical Methods in Electromagnetics](#)
[ECEN 759: Hardware Security](#)
[ITDE 610: Introduction to Engineering Innovation in Medicine](#)
[MSEN 619: Materials Modeling of Phase Transformation and Microstructural Evolution](#)
[NUEN 601: Nuclear Reactor Theory](#)
[NUEN 609: Nuclear Reactor Safety](#)
[NUEN 610: Design of Nuclear Reactors](#)
[NURS 638: Advanced Clinical Practicum and Project](#)
[NURS 652: Scholarship: Integration and Application](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.546

Mays Business School

Department of Business

[CERT-SCOP: Supply Chain and Operations - Certificate](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.547

Mays Business School

Department of Marketing

[MS-MKTG: Master of Science in Marketing](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.548

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Performance Studies

[MA-PERF: Master of Arts in Performance Studies](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.549

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics

[PHD-GGEN: Doctor of Philosophy in Genetics and Genomics](#)

Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.550

School of Public Health

Department of Public Health

[BS/MPH-PHLT/PHPM-PPH: Public Health - 5-year Bachelor of Science/Master of Public Health in Health Policy & Management](#)

Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.551

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Economics

[BA/MS-ECON/ECON-LEC: Economics - 5-Year Bachelor of Arts/Master of Science in Economics](#)

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.552

[EHRD 111: Learning Community - Foundations of Student Success](#)

Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.553

[ARTS 303: Graphic Design I](#)

[BIOL 401: Critical Writing in Biology](#)

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

[ESSM 430: Advanced Restoration Ecology](#)

[FINC 449: Financial Modeling](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.554

Mays Business School

Department of Finance

[CERT-CFIN: Corporate Finance - Certificate](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.555

Mays Business School

Department of Finance

[CERT-CU58: Trading, Risk and Investments - Certificate](#)

W&C COURSES

Courses Submitted for C Re-Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.556

[CSCE 482-C: Senior Capstone Design](#)

[CSCE 483-C: Computer Systems Design](#)

Courses Submitted for W Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.557

[ECMT 461-W: Economic Data Analysis](#)

Courses Submitted for W Certification – Galveston – *Passed* – FS.38.558

[MARS 281-W: Sophomore Seminar in Marine Sciences](#)

[WFSC 449-W: Professional Aspects of Aquatic Ecology](#)

Courses Submitted for W Re-Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.559

[ESSM 281-W: Seminar in Ecosystem Science and Management](#)

[HLTH 415-W: Health Education Methodology](#)

[NURS 461-W: Application of Evidence Based Practice for the RN](#)

[NURS 467-W: Leadership and Management for the RN](#)

[VIST 235-W: Theory and Practice in Visualization](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT – *Attachment C – Passed – FS.38.560*

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Communication

[COMM 243-GE: Argumentation and Debate](#)

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture

[ANTH 204-GE: The Prehistoric World](#)

Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Life and Physical Sciences

[HORT 202-GE: Horticultural Science and Practices Laboratory](#)