

## **TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

October 12, 2020

3:00pm

Via Zoom

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker John N. Stallone called the fifth meeting of the 38<sup>th</sup> 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 began by reminding Senators of the Zoom features to be used during the meeting, then several newly-elected Senators were sworn in.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Speaker Stallone welcomed guest speaker John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Chancellor Sharp began by introducing Billy Hamilton, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, who was joining for the discussion of TAMUS finances.

- The total financial impact from COVID-19 on the flagship (College Station campus), including lost revenue and increased costs, has been \$112 million projected through the past August 2020. The CARES Act reduced that loss to 9.3 million, and hopefully shortly after the November election there will be more funds forthcoming. The System schools are experiencing worse numbers.
- Billy Hamilton shared that most of the revenue loss is higher than the projected cost, especially within the auxiliary units. The costs incurred were from preparing classrooms, providing COVID testing, support for contact tracing, etc. The university is doing better than many, due to preparation for events such as these by building up the reserves and maintaining conservative spending policies.
- Texas A&M has not had the virus surge experienced by other universities, preventing even further losses caused by sending students home again. This eventuality, as well as the outcome of the Houston lawsuit seeking lower tuition and refunds, is why the merit raises have been delayed until spring. Barring any serious further losses by the end of December, the merit raises "ought to be in good shape." The funds for the raises are set aside in an account for this purpose.
- There is some uncertainty around the State budget, but the projected shortfall from by the State Comptroller is \$4.6 billion, much less than was the case in 2011 after the financial crisis. A more accurate projection will be released sometime in January.
- The General Appropriations Act is the main bill the legislature has to pass in its 2021 session. The System receives ~80% of its funding through primary formulas, and is asking the legislature to maintain that funding to cover growth and increasing enrollment. Special Items support has become more important; just last year the Board secured an extra \$55 million just for Texas A&M and wants that to continue.

- Tuition revenue bonds (TRB) for capital (building) projects have been requested of the legislature. TRB's were last awarded in 2015, prior to that was 2006; Chancellor Sharp thinks they may be awarded this year as building helps kickstart the economy.
- The presidential search is underway and the plan is to have the new president in place by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The search committee is chaired by James Hallmark, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the TAMU System.
- Chancellor Sharp feels he may have underestimated the impact of the Rellis campus. The Secretary of the Army visited recently, and the funding by the Pentagon to Rellis is for research in hyper sonics and directed energy. In the last week, hyper sonics research funds in the Army increased from \$3 billion to \$7-8 billion; the Air Force has doubled its funding and the Navy has more than doubled it. That money can only be spent in four universities selected for this work, one of which is Texas A&M. Recently, approximately 100 contractors have sought work space within the Rellis campus to be near the Army and this research. A hyper sonics tunnel is being built at Rellis, the only one in the United States. Testing by major companies will be done at the site, and Texas A&M will be credited for all of this research.
- The EnMed program will soon be in its new home in Houston at the Texas Medical Center. Two more high rise dormitories will be built for EnMed and Prairie View nursing students, costing \$500 million, and will be called Innovation Plaza. Another project, TMC3, is a research partnership between Texas A&M Health Science Center, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center, and MD Anderson. This is a few years out, but each will have four buildings with research space for private companies and is expected to attract the best medical researchers in the world.
- Texas A&M College of Medicine has almost completed negotiations on a new deal with Baylor, Scott and White, which has been approved by the Board of Regents. It will vastly increase the number of students in Dallas and provide an opportunity for students to be in BSW hospitals around Texas. Our Temple site will be turned over to Baylor College of Medicine and Texas A&M will take over spaces in Dallas and Austin.

Chancellor Sharp then took questions from the following Senators: Senator Dale Rice, College of Liberal Arts; Senator Peter McIntyre, College of Science; and Senator Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts.

(The full video recording of the meeting can be accessed on the Faculty Senate website: <https://facultysenate.tamu.edu/Faculty-Senate-Meeting-Recordings.>)

Speaker Stallone thanked Chancellor Sharp 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](#) *(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 Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts; Senator Tony Cahill, College of Engineering; Senator Matt Taylor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences; and Provost Carol Fierke.

Speaker Stallone provided updated information about the future Open Forums with President Young and Provost Fierke. He encouraged interested faculty to look for the dates on the Faculty Senate website's home page.

## **SPEAKER COMMENTS**

Speaker Stallone saluted faculty for their hard work, their diligence in the face of a challenging environment, and their commitment to providing a first-class education for the university's students.

He reminded Senators that they would be voting on a revision to the Title IX language in the Minimum Syllabus Requirements, and thanked Dr. Jennifer Smith, Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator, and Susan Forney, Professor and Director of the Program for the Advancement of Legal Ethics at the Texas A&M University School of Law, for their efforts to improve the Title IX language.

Speaker Stallone closed his comments by encouraging faculty to get their flu shot, and wished all good luck and good health for the remainder of the Fall 2020 semester.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The motion passed to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes as distributed. ***Attachment B – Passed***

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The motion passed to approve the October 12, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented. ***Passed***  
(Full ***Consent Agenda*** with FS #'s can be found under *Adjournment* below.)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Core Curriculum Council Course Report – *Attachment C – Passed – FS.38.125***

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution in Support of Formation of a Graduate School – *Attachment D – Passed – FS.38.126***

This resolution was brought to the Senate by Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies. Throughout the past year, Dr. Butler-Purry visited both the Senate and the Executive Committee to discuss this proposal for a graduate school. A robust discussion was had by Senators, with input from Dr. Butler-Purry and Provost Carol Fierke. The resolution was approved as presented.

## **Election – Vacant Seat on FS Executive Committee**

Candidate Statements – ***Attachment E – For Informational Review – FS.38.127***

The following candidates presented their statements: **Dr. Patricia K. Smith**, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and **Dr. Mark Sicilio**, College of Medicine. The vote followed the candidate statements, resulting in the election of Dr. Patti Smith to serve on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year.

## **Emergency Item: Proposed Amendment to Title IX Language in Minimum Syllabus Requirements – *Attachment F – Passed – FS.38.128***

The motion passed to approve the Proposed Amendment to the Title IX language in the Minimum Syllabus requirement as presented.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

Senator Darlene McLaughlin, College of Medicine, expressed concern about Silver Taps being held virtually, especially while football games and other events are being conducted face to face. Provost Carol Fierke shared that the decision to hold Silver Taps was made by the student committee in charge, and that discussions with Student Affairs about returning to in-person Silver Taps is ongoing.

Senator Clint Magill, College of Agriculture, stated that the vote on the graduate school resolution would have been easier and less work if a link to the Graduate School Proposal had been shared on the agenda.

Senator Lou Tassinary, College of Architecture, raised two issues. First, faculty have approached him to find out the status of the Sullivan Ross statue issue. Second, he raised a concern about a faculty member who has been singled out for participating in the “Day of Action,” wondering if the Faculty Senate wants to do anything in response. Speaker-Elect Dale Rice responded that the President’s Commission is reviewing the monument issue, which is complicated by the Texas Attorney General’s determination that the Sul Ross statue would require approval by the state legislature. Senator Klein shared a comment by former Speaker Julie Harlin, that the Commission will be making their recommendation to the President in December. Speaker-Elect Rice encouraged Senators to consider if we want to take a position on this issue, and Speaker Stallone indicated that he intends to pursue the Faculty Senate’s position on the statue.

Senator Andrea Roberts, College of Liberal Arts, asked if there has been any discussion of land acknowledgement in the past, or could there be in the future? For those unfamiliar, land acknowledgement is an honest and historically accurate way to recognize the traditional first nations and native American territories and spaces, which can be presented verbally or visually. For example, Texas A&M is on the land of multiple Native nations.

Senator Kathryn Falvo, TAMU Galveston, asked if the Sul Ross statue issue might be addressed by a sub-committee? If so, she would make a motion for it.

Senator Andrew Klein, College of Geosciences, shared concerns about the lack of social distancing and mask-wearing at the recent televised football game, and wondered if any administrator wanted to address this. Provost Fierke stated that she wasn't present, but that the televised views looked better than the previous game, and that there would be multiple discussions about it this week. One of the questions she has heard is related to the decision by the Corps and Athletics that each Corps floor is a family and they may sit together; she has argued (unsuccessfully) against this as it sends the wrong leadership message to other students on campus.

Senator Lou Tassinary, College of Architecture, wanted to follow up on the second issue he raised regarding disciplinary action against the faculty member. Senator Kolasinski asked for more information on this issue. Provost Fierke shared that there is a Texas State law making it illegal for a state employee to participate in an organized work stoppage. Texas A&M Office of General Counsel has determined that joining in the Day of Action and cancelling classes is an organized work stoppage. Other faculty members participated by using a teach-in, which was considered acceptable. It was the cancelling of classes that was determined to be actionable behavior. Dr. Moore has received a letter and has the opportunity to appeal it, but Dr. Fierke could say no more because it is a personnel matter. She did add that Dr. Moore is not being fired.

Dr. Widmer stated that the person interested in providing feedback on the polling technology could contact her directly at [widmerj@tamu.edu](mailto:widmerj@tamu.edu) or [aihelp@tamu.edu](mailto:aihelp@tamu.edu).

Senator Adam Haney, TAMU Galveston, expressed his pride in joining the Faculty Senate. He asked that the Senate consider saving amendments to the Minimum Syllabus Requirements to introduce them at the end of a semester to avoid confusion.

Senator Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts, expressed concern about the length of her syllabi, suggesting a central repository for the University Policies where a single link could be provided to this information. The policies could still be discussed in class. Senator Angie Hill Price stated that the revisions to the MSR don't go into effect until the next semester, and that she isn't sure that having links will make students read them any more than when they are on the syllabus.

Senator Adam Haney, TAMU Galveston, stated that it was his understanding that the Student Handbook has all of the same information as the MSR, and that faculty are just copying that. He shared that he had asked his Galveston colleague to bring this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee for consideration.

Senator Peter McIntyre, College of Science, suggested identifying several Senators knowledgeable about the Sul Ross statue issue and pairing them with several Senators knowledgeable about the land acknowledgment issue for constructive purposes. Senator Andrew Klein asked Speaker Stallone to identify the Senators currently serving on the President's Commission. Speaker Stallone shared that former Senator Julie Harlin is serving, but he doesn't know of any others. Speaker-Elect Dale Rice affirmed that Senator Falvo's and Senator McIntyre's suggestions mesh well together and that he would make sure the EC considers how to move forward.

Speaker-Elect Rice returned the meeting to Speaker Stallone.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

## APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA for October 2020

### GRADUATE COUNCIL

#### **New Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.105**

[BICH 658: Application of Scientific Values in Daily Research Practice](#)

[ECEN 740: Machine Learning Engineering](#)

[EPSY 617: Advanced Topics in Temperament, Behavior Problems, and Psychopathology](#)

[EPSY 639: Experimental Research Design in Educational Settings](#)

[ESET 611: Industrial Internet of Things](#)

[ESET 662: Advanced Control Systems](#)

[IDIS 656: Leading People and Managing Performance](#)

[INTA 701: Women, International Development and Environmental Conflict](#)

[INTA 708: Data Science and Visualization for Policy Analysis](#)

[INTA 710: Intelligence Collection Systems](#)

[KINE 652: Methods in Human Clinical Research](#)

[MMET 663: Machine Elements in Mechanical Design Applications II](#)

[MPHY 603: Applied Microscopy for Biomedical Research](#)

[MPHY 635: Lymphatics - Regulation of Immunology and Inflammation](#)

[MEEN 690: Entrepreneurship in Nano and Energy Systems](#)

[MSCI 603: Tumor Microenvironment and Cancer Metastasis](#)

[OCEN 660: Data Science for Ocean Engineers](#)

[SCMT 665: Artificial Intelligence for Business](#)

[SOPH 671: Applied Research in Global Health](#)

#### **Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.106**

[GENE 620: Cytogenetics](#)

[ISTM 655: Security Management and Compliance](#)

[MEEN 607: Polymer Physical Properties](#)

[MEEN 631: Microscale Thermodynamics](#)

[MEEN 634: Dynamics and Modeling of Mechatronic Systems](#)

[MEEN 642: Gas Turbine Heat Transfer and Cooling Technology](#)

[MEEN 688: Advanced Solid Mechanics](#)

[MSCI 650: Foundations of Clinical and Translational Research](#)

[PETE 630: Geostatistics and Data Analytics](#)

[VPAT 653: Pathology of Laboratory Animals](#)

#### **Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.107**

##### **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Science

[MRYD-RYDV: Master of Recreation and Youth Development](#)

#### **Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.108**

##### **College of Architecture**

Department of Construction Science

[MS-COMG: Master of Science in Construction Management](#)

#### **Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.109**

##### **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Management  
[MS-RWFM: Master of Science in Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management](#)

**Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.110**

**College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Management  
[PHD-RWFM: Doctor of Philosophy in Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management](#)

**Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.111**

**School of Public Health**

Department of Health Promotion & Community Health Science  
[CERT-CG57: Health Coaching for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management - Certificate](#)

**Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.112**

**College of Education & Human Development**

Department of Teaching, Learning & Culture  
[CERT-PSST: Post-Secondary Science Teaching Certificate](#)

**Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.113**

**College of Nursing**

Department of Nursing  
[DNP-NRPR: Doctor of Nursing Practice](#)

**Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.114**

**College of Architecture**

Department of Construction Science  
[PHD-COSC: Doctor of Philosophy in Construction Science](#)

**Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.115**

**College of Liberal Arts**

Department of Performance Studies  
[BA/MA-PERF/PERF-LPF: Performance Studies - 5-Year Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in Performance Studies](#)

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**New Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.116**

[OCEN 460: Data Science for Ocean Engineers](#)  
[RWFM 202: Concepts in Applied Plant Biology](#)  
[RWFM 305: Principles and Practices of Wildlife and Fisheries Management](#)  
[RWFM 321: Communicating Natural Resources](#)  
[RWFM 345: Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management and Policy](#)  
[RWFM 349: Rangeland and Wildlife Animal Nutrition](#)  
[RWFM 350: Wildlife Population Dynamics](#)  
[RWFM 354: Wildlife Anatomy and Physiology](#)  
[RWFM 370: Aquatic Vegetation Management](#)  
[RWFM 401: Rangeland Plant and Herbivory Dynamics](#)  
[RWFM 421: Upland Bird Management](#)  
[RWFM 422: Large Mammal Management](#)  
[RWFM 423: Waterfowl and Wetland Management](#)  
[RWFM 424: Wildlife Damage Management](#)  
[RWFM 425: Carnivore Management](#)  
[RWFM 444: Aquaculture Hatchery Management](#)  
[RWFM 445: Fish Health and Diseases](#)  
[RWFM 446: Fish Physiology](#)  
[RWFM 461: Community-Based Conservation](#)

**New Courses – Galveston – *Passed* – FS.38.117**

[MARB 215: Marine Zoology](#)

**Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.118**

[HEFB 324: Technology and Teaching Skills for the 21st Century Learner](#)

[HLTH 222: Concepts in Peer Health Education](#)

[HLTH 332: School Health Program](#)

[HLTH 335: Human Diseases](#)

[HLTH 353: Drugs and Society](#)

[HLTH 403: Consumer Health](#)

[HLTH 410: Worksite Health Promotion](#)

[HLTH 415: Health Education Methodology](#)

[HLTH 421: Elementary School Health Instruction](#)

[KINE 318: Athletic Injuries](#)

[KINE 334: Coaching in Personal Training](#)

[MMET 307: Computer Design Graphics](#)

[PHLT 307: Public Health in the Global Context](#)

[RPTS 323: Managing Hospitality and Recreation Organizations](#)

[RPTS 370: Youth Development Organizations and Services](#)

[SCMT 300: Business Communications I](#)

[SCMT 361: Operations Planning and Control](#)

**Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.119**

**Mays Business School**

Department of Information & Operations Management

[BBA-SCMT: Supply Chain Management - BBA](#)

**Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.120**

**College of Education & Human Development**

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-CHLT: Community Health - BS](#)

**Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.121**

**College of Education & Human Development**

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-HLTH-AHO: Health - BS, Allied Health Track](#)

**Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.122**

**College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Science

[CERT-PETM: Professional Event Management - Certificate](#)

**W&C COURSES**

**Courses Submitted for C Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.123**

[MATH 396-C: Communications in Mathematics](#)

**Courses Submitted for W Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.124**

[ATMO 459-W: Tropical Meteorology](#)

[BESC 484-W: Field Experience](#)

[ENGL 107-W: Introduction to the Health Humanities](#)

[ENGL 482-W: Health Humanities Senior Seminar](#)

[FREN 418-W: Seminar in French Civilization](#)

[MATH 467-W: Modern Geometry](#)



*End of Consent Agenda*

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**CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT – *Attachment C – Passed – FS.38.125***

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

[MARS 102-GE: Ocean and Earth Science](#)