

DRAFT

WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes
February 2, 2024

Attended: Fisseha Alemayehu, Bill Ambrose, Brandon Bang, Gary Byrd, Priscilla Correa, David Craig, Nancy Garcia, Callie Hisek, Eric Hoffmann, Roy Issa, Kenneth Leitch, Guglielmo Manfredi, Kelly McCauley, Eric Meljac, Ashley Pinkham, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, Brian Spencer, Troy Tarpley, Bruce Wardlow, Brigitte Whaley

Absent: Christopher Baird, Sean Humphrys, Leslie Ramos Salazar

Proxies: None

Guests: None

The regular meeting of the WTAMU Faculty Senate was called to order at 12:15pm by President David Craig in the Eternal Flame room on the Canyon campus.

Minutes of the regular meeting from January 19, 2023, provided and reviewed. Bridgette Whaley moves to approve the minutes, pending corrections. The motion is accepted.

Officers' Reports and Remarks:

President David Craig met with Provost Neil Terry about a variety of issues. Disappearing email requires a more complete inquiry, and Terry had already gone to James Webb via email, which Craig provided. Terry communicated concerns of faculty. There is an influx of spearfishing via Gmail, a more sophisticated attack. Craig plans to write a longer inquiry. In terms of missed training penalties, Terry urges the Senate to push back and contact Academic Affairs regarding the penalties. Terry notices an encroachment by Human Resources into faculty affairs, and such concerns are real and valid. Timing and penalties can be discussed, and Terry is supportive, yet it is a compliance issue. Need to check System policies. Pay withholding penalty is illegal, but taking away access to IT is not. There needs to be a better system, for exemptions and extensions. There is now concern regarding bringing items into computer rooms, and IT is becoming concerning to Terry. On textbooks, Terry argues for a middle ground. There is less overreach now than expected, but it is still overreach. Faculty concerns will not be dismissed, and the deans and Provost are not in favor of the textbook policy. Senate may want to consult with General Counsel. Approach University President Wendler with questions and queries.

President-Elect Kenneth Leitch suggests all read the articles on WTAMU in the *Texas Tribune*. At Curriculum Committee, 281 changes were submitted, and none were contentious. Anyone who has ideas for the research building are welcome to make them. In 2025, legislators will be approached for the new building. President David Craig said Provost Terry is confident the plans will execute, plus there is mention of a large grant for a brand-new museum building.

Secretary Eric Meljac has nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Handbook Committee

Eric Meljac indicates that there is nothing to report at this time.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

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Filiberto met personally in an unofficial manner but has not yet responded to a formal meeting plan. Currently there is nothing pressing, and committee will return at a later date with an update.

Unfinished Business:

Training Penalties

Continuation of President's Remarks. Eric Meljac urges strong pushback against pay-take. Laura Reyher questioned the chain of command in the development of the penalties via HR. Gary Byrd asks why HR does not consider reasons for non-compliance and why there is not a warning step, both of which would make it easier for faculty to comply. Ashley Pinkham posits that the "never hire again" policy for adjuncts and student workers sends mixed messages about employment at the University. Bridgette Whaley questions under whose authority this policy originated. Jim Rogers reminds that if a grant is awarded in the summer, one must train in the summer for the grant, yet the grant does not take effect until the beginning of the WTAMU fiscal year. Callie Hisek argues that transparency is needed, and faculty need to know where the mandate originated and why the mandate exists—there needs to be a three-strike policy. Brandon Bang would like to see statistics for non-compliance. Pinkham notes it is better to reward than punish faculty, PTIs, and student workers. President David Craig will draft a letter to Provost Terry, look at other system sites, and then distribute those to the Senate.

Textbooks

Bridgett Whaley wonders when current textbook policy would affect 3000- and 4000-level classes. David Craig did not hear any news from University President Wendler, and Provost Terry does not seem to think a policy for these levels would come quickly.

New Business:

Faculty Development Leave

University could fund two faculty for Development Leave. Eric Meljac motions to approve Faculty Development Leave for Emily Kinsky and Christopher Meerdink. Motion seconded. Motion passes.

Regents Professor

A nomination for Regents Professor has been submitted to the Senate early. Assistant Academic Vice President Amy Andersen said to wait until August to consider the application, when it is due to be submitted officially.

Blake Price moves to adjourn the meeting and was seconded at 1:15pm.

Respectfully,

Eric Meljac