

**WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes
February 16, 2024**

Attended: Fisseha Alemayehu, Bill Ambrose, Christopher Baird, Brandon Bang, Gary Byrd, David Craig, Nancy Garcia, Eric Hoffmann, Sean Humphreys, Roy Issa, Kenneth Leitch, Guglielmo Manfredi, Kelly McCauley, Eric Meljac, Ashley Pinkham, Leslie Ramos Salazar, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, Bruce Wardlow, Brigitte Whaley

Absent: Priscilla Correa, Callie Hisek, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Brian Spencer, Troy Tarpley

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 February 2, 2024, were provided and reviewed. [Senator] moved to approve the minutes, pending corrections. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Officers' Reports and Remarks:

President David Craig reported that Dr. Terry approved both Faculty Development Leave Applications. These have been sent to the System. Craig discussed an email from Provost Dr. Terry from the President's Council. From James Webb and IT, there will be a change to Duo Push. There is worry about TikTok forbidden, but especially on personal devices on which WT business is conducted. Craig asks what outside device does not have access to WT business sites and applications? This seems invasive and hard to implement. Faculty should be concerned. Provost Terry says he understands the issues at WT with cyber attacks and phishing. The System now requires labeling of locations where confidential discussions take place on campus. Senator Brigitte Whaley asks with the personal personal device restrictions, given that we are supposed to answer student emails quickly, even late at night when are we supposed to email? Now only at work? Craig replies that your phone cannot have TikTok according to the policy. However, any device that can conduct state business must not have TikTok, but state business can be conducted anywhere. Whaley calls this a power grab. Craig relates he understands these to be a state requirements. Whaley asks if the Senate can reach out to other universities. Senator Ashley Pinkham asks how does IT know unless they put something on your device to track? Is this information a threat? Whaley argues that we should not be prohibited from using our devices. Craig reminds as state employees we are liable for our own devices; and, we may form a committee on this issue.

Finally, regarding the SES CPE, one member of committee needed to step down. We will choose another at random.

President-Elect Kenneth Leitch reported from the President's Council. New Associate degrees were announced. \$225-250 million will fund a new Panhandle Plains museum. \$2 million will from TAMUS to start planning the new building. This seems to be a strong indication that the System and WT want to go forward with the rebuild, in addition to the new research center.

However dual credit will be affected by these infrastructure changes, and Provost Terry wants to hire someone to work on this problem. The target populations for the museum are homeschooled and high schoolers. The long term benefit is that this will help with enrollment by using dual credit. There have been discussions, too, of using work experience as credit.

FAFSA applications and processing is moving to the end of December in the next cycle.

James Webb was not in attendance at President's Council

Secretary Eric Meljac had nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Handbook Committee

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

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

Student Senate President Filberto [LAST] has been in touch with the committee and will schedule an appointment in the next week.

Unfinished Business:

Training Penalties

President Craig has not been able to contact HR on training penalties, but he has some list of questions from the prior meeting.

New Business:

University Curriculum Committee

Kenneth Leitch reports that 281 changes were submitted to the committee, with the addition of associate degrees. Ashley Pinkham reports that first AA was last year in FAH, and now all colleges are tasked. This is System wide. Neil Terry declined announcing this at the end of last year. This was President Wendler's idea, it went to SACS and rolled out to all System universities who were on board. Originally set up for all AA in general studies from FAH, then the compromise was for each college to create its own associate degree. Sean Humphreys questioned if students are AA already? Pinkham says that after 60 hours students will get an AA. Humphreys calls this misadvised. Pinkham says the initial one last year was very specific to a college, so not all students yet have one until next year. Craig says he can send out faculty email. Meljac motions Craig to send out faculty with information on this to all faculty members about implementation of associate degrees and specific colleges. Seconded. No objections.

Magister Optimus

Nominations for *Magister Optimus* are needed and shall remain confidential. Senators are to bring nominations to the Senate or tell Craig. Will vote at a meeting based on award deadline.

Pinkham says two years ago the Senate, at request of academic affairs, had a rubric sent to faculty Senate to judge/know nominees' accomplishments and credentials.

There is currently one nomination for Regents Professor, but nominations can come fairly late, and they go to the Regents for the fall meeting. April would be good deadline.

Thesis Chairs

Pinkham mentions a last-semester discussion about non-tenured faculty not being able to chair a thesis. Craig does not think anything was done about this issue but will inquire. Leitch says the change in titles means a faculty member needs to reapply for the next level of thesis qualification. Clarification is needed.

Junior Faculty Review

Senator Ramos Salazar said that during junior faculty review tenured faculty could see all junior faculty's negative comments in Interfolio, and they may judge based on that as a wide array of students not just one. The comments field does not specify multiple student comments versus one student comment. There are concerns and question about improving that summary. Nancy Garcia says we need to contact Brooke [NAME]. Craig says he of Kenneth will check on this. Jim Rogers says he is pleased with his grade 1-6 but all else are 1-4. Students do not have grades; should be uncertain until final projects and papers. Humphreys says this is not taken into account.

Technology Prohibitions

Brigitte Whaley would like to revisit at future business prohibited use of AI. It is great that AI exists, but it may get blocked. Who decides this? Craig says we will have to look at it, check email with links to TAMUS policies, and let dean know if you are using anything banned. Rogers says he could not use YouTube at one time. Pinkham questions that if faculty cannot access AI but students can, how do we check for academic dishonest? Humphreys argues that Microsoft Word even has AI. Pinkham asks if this prohibition is just the personal devices of faculty or also the devices of students. Humphreys suggests might be good to invite James Webb to Senate because these questions are dynamic—Motion Humphreys. Seconded. No objections. Craig will invite Webb to Senate; he states that before Christmas Haasl and Webb were to have a meeting but will meet with the Senate about prohibited technology and AI issues.

12:59 Kenneth Leitch motion to adjourn. Seconded. Adjourned.

Respectfully,

Eric Meljac