

**WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**March 1, 2024**

**Attended:** Fisseha Alemayehu, Christopher Baird, Gary Byrd, Priscilla Correa, David Craig, Eric Hoffmann, Sean Humphreys, 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, Brigette Whaley

**Absent:** Bill Ambrose, Brandon Bang, Nancy Garcia, Callie Hisek, Leslie Ramos Salazar

**Proxies:** None

**Guests:** James Webb

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 16, 2024, are delayed and will be adopted at the subsequent meeting.

**Guest:**

James Webb, Vice President for Information Technology. Minutes deferred.

**Officers' Reports and Remarks:**

Senate President David Craig met with University President Walter Wendler. Craig reports the President is worried about enrollment and looking for ideas. This is all President Wendler discussed. Craig alerted Provost Neil Terry about fire alarm issue in the Classroom Center, and Terry did not get any information about the event, and it was not on his radar, even though he now has many concerns. Provost Terry offered to communicate with police department. Provost Terry mentioned that he had been to the Regents meeting, and we should be aware of the politics of DEI SB 17. Nothing specific about faculty, but some at the meeting felt a chill in the air, and it is best to have an eye out and be prepared to defend academic content. On March 5 there will be a request for core curriculum materials regarding free online textbooks issue—publishers competing for our business. [Cingage] appears to be the planned company, but it may not necessarily be chosen. Terry suspects one large company and one small company to be the result. We will choose the best proposal we are going to get. Graduate courses are not part of this initiative currently. Textbook companies' assistance getting a physical textbook at lower price would be great. We should try this for a couple of years and see how the faculty feels after that period about the new structure. Craig gives Senate a reminder that email sent for Six Year Review folder access. Pinkham clarifies the process.

President-Elect Kenneth Leitch says he spoke to a group from Texas A&M Faculty Senate already met, but maybe WT may go next year. Leitch sent AI questions the body and is waiting to hear back.

Secretary Eric Meljac has nothing to report.

## **Committee Reports:**

### *Faculty Handbook Committee*

University Handbook Committee member, Senator Ashley Pinkham, says she submitted procedures regarding Cornette Library Senator Selection last year in the spring. Currently, the Faculty Handbook does not reflect all changes. Last year's changes sent and approved in May and not make it into the 2023 Handbook but will in 2024. All elections and officer selections must be run according to 2023 for the time being. We need to make changes per the 24 Handbook, and they need to be compatible with previously-submitted changes. "Supervisory role" is too vague a term when selecting a library senator. An additional section should be added to define administrative and supervisory roles. In addition, changes made under Faculty Senate were never sent to the University Committee. New updates need to reflect changes over the years.

Humphreys motions to give access of materials and resources to the Handbook Committee. Seconded. Humphreys would like to discuss supervisory role. Pinkham notes a need for a definition of faculty versus librarian. Humphreys asks what is a supervisory role. Pinkham clarifies. Question arises about faculty supervising faculty. Reyher asks when it comes to supervising, is a team teacher that has a lead have a supervisory load. Pinkham reminds that the supervisor needs to be advisory in terms of evaluation.

Humphreys motions to let th committee do the job. Seconded. Passes. Senate handbook committee will work on changes.

Regarding Academic Affairs, Pinkham discusses what to do if tenure promotion is appealed. Should the the language suggesting the University President needing to meet and render a decision based on portfolio be removed? Other systems do not do this. Senator Eric Meljac motions for an up or down vote. Seconded. Up and down vote: eight for; eight against. Motion fails. Four abstentions.

### *Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs*

Senator Priscella Correa reports no pressing business.

### *Additional Committee Reports*

Craig would like to form an ad hoc committee for required technology training since he is swamped with work. Jim Rogers says he will join the ad hoc committee.

## **Old Business:**

### *Fire Alarm Incident*

Craig offers more about February 21<sup>st</sup> false fire alarm in Classroom Center. There was a problem with evacuating students. Pinkham was in building and had two students in wheelchairs with no direction. Fire and Safety indicated to faculty to take students are to take designated stairwells

and find the contact person, who no one knows. Fire and Safety say it is up to faculty to learn that. Title IX issues are a concern for those unable to follow the specific instructions.

Humphreys notes that a staff/faculty member was telling students to return to class, but under whose authority? Indicates a need to return to emergency vests for floor coordinators.

Price notes that his building has outdated evacuation maps.

Reyher asks who is in charge of evacuation, maps, and safety.

Pinkham relates that it is solely Fire and Safety.

Humphreys motions to have UPD come to Senate to answer questions and then make recommendations. Seconded.

Craig says he will make the necessary contact.

*Magister Optimus*

Craig reminded to gather nominations for Magister Optimus.

**New Business:**

None