

WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2025

Attended: Kenneth Leitch, Gary Byrd, Nancy Garcia-Franken, Fisseha, Alemayehu, Brandon Bang, Kristy Bartlett, Leon Chen, David Craig, Traci Fredman, Bridget Guerrero, David Hart, Callie Hisek, David Howe, Turkan Kilic, Chelsea Kuehler, Audrey Meador, Shanna Peeples, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Jim Rogers, Laura Reyher, John Shanks, Brandli Stitzel, Shiquan Tao, Vinu Unnikrishnan, Kerrie Young

Absent:

Proxies: No proxies

Guests: No guests

The regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Jan. 24, 2025, was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Kenneth Leitch in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center's Eternal Flame room.

Approval of Prior Meetings

The minutes for the regular meetings on Nov. 22, 2024, were reviewed. Jim Rogers moved to approve the minutes without corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

Officer's Reports and Remarks

President

1. Leitch attended the University Promotion & Tenure meeting on Dec. 06, 2024.
2. A meeting between Leitch and President Walter Wendler happened on Jan. 21. The topics discussed included 1) the role of Faculty Senates, 2) coordination of school delays with Amarillo College, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD, and 3) digital textbooks.

President-Elect

No new business to report.

Secretary

No new business to report.

Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

No new business to report.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

A meeting with the Student Government Association happened towards the end of the fall semester. Issues with advising were brought up by the SGA; the committee suggested that the SGA survey the student body and gather more information before the Faculty Senate takes action.

Equity Pay Ad Hoc Committee

No new business to report.

Unfinished Business

1. An invitation will be extended to the Office of Student Accessibility (OSA) to speak with the Faculty Senate during the 2025 spring semester.
2. Discussion topics submitted through the Faculty Senate Suggestion Box were discussed, including using removable jump drives and email filtering. An invitation will be extended to IT to visit the Faculty Senate.

New Business

A concern about senators' terms was brought up. The Faculty Handbook Committee will review options to have one-third of senators rotate yearly and provide an update.

Upcoming for 2025 Spring

1. The Faculty Evaluations of Administrators have been initiated with Jarvis Hampton.
2. Magister Optimus will be initiated in Feb. 2025 and awarded at the beginning of the next academic year.
3. Comprehensive Peer Evaluation (CPE): In the process, folders will go to committees on March 03.
4. University committee vacancies will be initiated in March and filled by April.
5. A potential visit from Wendler has been moved to April 18 with a 10:00 a.m. start.
6. A new Faculty Senate group for the next academic year will be established in May.

Adjournment

Matt Reardon moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully,

Nancy García-Franken