

WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes February 7, 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, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Jim Rogers, Laura Reyher, John Shanks, Brandli Stitzel, Shiquan Tao

Absent: Shanna Peeples (Proxy: Jennifer Denham), Vinu Unnikrishnan (Proxy: Erick Butler), Kerrie Young.

Guests: James Webb & Lora Haasl

The regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Feb.7, 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.

Guest Speakers: James Webb, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer & Lora Haasl, Director of Academic Technology

Provided an update on WT migration to Canvas. Workshops available are for migrated content rather than workshops on how to use Canvas. The contract with Blackboard will end in July 31, 2025, and content will no longer be available. Academic data will be archived for 1-year in case of a grade appeal, etc. Faculty can already access Canvas by going to wtamu.instructure.com and logging in with single sign-on; courses from 2023SU and beyond have been moved and can be reviewed. Faculty are encouraged to attend one of the available Canvas Migration trainings.

The recommended lecture recording software is Camtasia, which can be purchased for on-campus or personal computers for \$25 through <https://software.tamu.edu/>. Faculty are encouraged to use the faculty studio through the [WTAMU Academic Technology Video & Multimedia Resources](#). Additional support can be found on the <https://faculty.wtamu.edu/> webpage.

There was a discussion of cyber security for campus IT resources, and guidance can be obtained from WT ITSC as needed.

Approval of Prior Meetings

The minutes for the regular meetings on Jan. 24, 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. At the meeting with Provost Terry on Feb. 03, the role of Faculty Senates, according to Texas Legislature, was discussed.
2. Digital textbooks will likely continue to be part of WT.

3. Faculty raises will not happen for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The budget for 2025-2026 is currently in progress.
4. Met with Julie Blair at McGraw-Hill: more digital books are coming, and there will be a move to a yearly update model every June.
5. A Meeting with President Wendler is scheduled for Feb. 17.
6. Canvas LMS trainings are encouraged for faculty.

President-Elect

No new business to report.

Secretary

No new business to report.

Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

A meeting will be scheduled.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

No new business to report; will schedule a meeting and report to the Faculty Senate next meeting.

Equity Pay Ad Hoc Committee

The committee will work on drafting a salary comparison report that includes peer institutions regionally and the state of Texas. Also, a comparison between faculty who have been at WT for some time and newly hired faculty will be made, as well as the cost of living.

It was suggested that the committee be continued beyond this year.

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.

New Business

1. Motion initiated by Brandon Bang: "The Faculty Senate President shall attend all University graduation ceremonies in full academic regalia- including their tam- and be included as a member of the platform party alongside other University administrators to represent the faculty. The Senate President shall attend all May graduation ceremonies in the year of the election and continue to represent the faculty at all graduation ceremonies for the duration of their term as Faculty Senate President. If the Senate President cannot attend a ceremony, they shall designate either the President-Elect or Secretary to participate, at the Senate meeting

preceding the graduation ceremonies, any senator may nominate a sitting senator to attend in place of the Senate President. The nominee receiving the most votes from the Faculty Senate shall serve in place of the Senate President and represent the faculty.” The motion was seconded; the motion carries. The motion shall be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs for approval, and the Office of the President shall be copied.

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 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

Nancy García-Franken