

**WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2025**

**Attended:** Kenneth Leitch, Gary Byrd, Nancy Garcia-Franken, Fisseha Alemayehu, Brandon Bang, Kristy Bartlett, Leon Chen, David Craig, 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, Vinu Unnikrishnan, Kerrie Young

**Absent:** Traci Fredman, Shanna Peeples

The regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Mar. 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.

**Approval of Prior Meetings**

The minutes for the regular meeting on Feb. 21, 2025, were reviewed. Matt Reardon moved to approve the minutes without corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Officer's Reports and Remarks**

*President*

1. President's Council Meeting Tue 25 Feb 2025
  - a. 2025 Texas Legislature
    - i. Behavioral health effort
    - ii. \$10M water initiative with TTU (40/60 split)
    - iii. \$72M Research Building
    - iv. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum: reduced scope, rebuild and replace in phases
  - b. TAMU Chancellor search in progress
  - c. International student admissions: greatly improved
  - d. If ICE comes to your class, contact UPD or Chief Burns
  - e. ~3% reduction in budget expected
  - f. 100-mile waiver for students back in force: includes NM, CO, OK, and KS
2. Contacted Provost on CPE process and notified committees

*President-Elect*

No new business to report.

*Secretary*

No new business to report.

**Committee Reports**

*Faculty Handbook Committee*

1. University Handbook Committee met Mar. 06, 2025
2. Request to clarify language on CPE process

*Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs*

No new business to report.

*Equity Pay Ad Hoc Committee*

No new business to report.

**Unfinished Business**

1. Office of Student Accessibility (OSA): extended offer for them to speak, no response via email
2. Faculty Senate Suggestion Box (no new entries)
3. Chelsea Kuehler: LibQual survey open Mar. 17-23
4. Magister Optimus applications have been received. Nominations are now closed.
5. Faculty Evaluation of Administrators: sent Feb. 24, 2025; reminders will be sent through May 5.
6. Comprehensive Peer Evaluation (CPE): in process; folders went to committees on March 3, 2025. The intent is to finish by April 1, as per the Faculty Handbook.

**New Business**

1. Harassment of faculty by students: how to respond.
2. Staggering Faculty Senate terms so that ~1/3 of Senators are replaced at the end of April each year <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/faculty-senate/>
  - a. Ending 30 April 2025: 6 currently
  - b. Ending 30 April 2026: 3 currently
  - c. Ending 30 April 2027: 17 currently

David Craig made the motion that, during departmental elections, department senators check term rotations and consult with the Senate executive committee to announce short terms of one or two years. No less than one and no more than two senators in each college rotate off. Also, to add an item to Senate's Standard Operating Procedures to check terms in November of the fall term. Motioned seconded and approved.

**Upcoming for 2025 Spring**

1. President Wendler: 18 Apr 2025 (10 AM start)
2. New Faculty Senate meeting: May 2025

**Adjournment**

Callie Hisek moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully,

Nancy García-Franken