

WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2025

Attended: Kenneth Leitch, Gary Byrd, Brandon Bang, Kristy Bartlett, Leon Chen, David Craig, Traci Fredman, Bridget Guerrero, David Howe, Turkan Kilic, Chelsea Kuehler, Audrey Meador, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, John Shanks, Shiquan Tao, Vinu Unnikrishnan, Kerrie Young

Absent: Nancy Garcia-Franken, Fisseha Alemayehu, David Hart, Callie Hisek, Shanna Peeples, Brandli Stitzel

Proxy: Stephen Crandall (for Callie Hisek)

President Kenneth Leitch called the regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Apr. 15, 2025, to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) building, Room 109.

Guest: WTAMU President Dr. Walter Wendler

- Very excited about the new PhD programs that have been proposed (Business and Engineering). Goal is to have a doctoral program in every college on campus. Programs will focus on specific regional needs.
- WT students are now receiving embedded associates degrees. Approximately 90 have been awarded at this point and widespread growth in the future is anticipated.
- The PPHM has numerous safety concerns. Recent fire marshal report identified 149 violations (available online), of which 100 were structural. Other significant deficiencies exist across the building (plumbing, roof, etc.). The Texas Historical Commission is working with WT to propose a new scaled down \$152M building. Would like to find a way to showcase artifacts across the state using a variety of methods.

Approval of Prior Meetings

The minutes for the regular meeting on April 4, 2025, were reviewed. David Craig moved to approve the minutes with a minor correction on which senators would conduct the upcoming PECANS senator election. The motion was seconded and passed.

Officer's Reports and Remarks

President

- Textbooks and budgets have been the most discussed topics with Dr. Wendler.
- Faculty should have a role in addressing the PPHM issues both short- and long-term. Possibly a panel of faculty and administrators to discuss questions that exist.

President-Elect

- Provided advice to senators on budgetary approaches that have been taken in the past when WT was faced with potential funding cuts.

Secretary

- No new business to report.

Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

- Discussed a previously approved faculty handbook committee proposal to provide departmental and college committee feedback directly to tenure-track faculty members during the third-year review process.
- Discussed a new faculty handbook committee proposal to clarify language within the process for non-renewal notification at the end of an appointment term, including an appeal to the EVPP if the faculty member wishes to appeal the non-renewal.
 - Brandon Bang moved to vote on the proposal, and it was seconded. The motion passed.

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. Faculty Evaluation of Administrators.
 - a. The survey has been sent to all and closes at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 5.
 - b. Discussion on ensuring that deans share results with department heads.
 - c. Web links (page 3)
2. Faculty Senate Appreciation Lunch: RSVP (page 4)
3. Elections for the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate.
 - a. Ending 30 April 2025: 7 currently.
 - b. Ending 30 April 2026: 3 currently.
 - c. Ending 30 April 2027: 16 currently.
4. College of Engineering elections: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. in ECS 203. Gary Byrd and Brandon Bang will supervise the election.
5. PECANS Spring Faculty Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025, in the Student Senate Chamber from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Brandon Bang and Traci Fredman will supervise the election.
6. FAH: The election will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, from 1 to 2 PM in FAC Recital Hall. Dave Howe and Laura Reyher will supervise the process.
7. Remaining three college elections will be conducted digitally.

New Business

1. Panhandle Plains Museum: Fire Marshal Inspection Report (page 3 for link)
2. Texas Legislature in Session (page 3 for link)
3. Upcoming discussion on dual credit courses was tabled for a future meeting.

Upcoming for 2025 Spring

1. Faculty Senate Appreciation Lunch: Friday May 2 at 12 to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP if planning to attend.

2. New Faculty Senate meeting: May 2025, likely Friday, May 9, from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in JBK 14
 - a. Minutes from Apr. 18 will need to be approved
 - b. Elect new faculty senate executive positions
3. Share TAMUS Assembly of Faculty Senates contact with new Executive Committee

Adjournment

Matt Reardon moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully,

Blake Price (on behalf of Nancy Garcia-Franken)

Helpful Web Links

- Faculty Handbook 2024-2025
<https://www.wtamu.edu/files/docs/academics/academicaffairs/Faculty%20Handbook%202024.pdf>
- Faculty Senate Minutes <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/faculty-senate/faculty-senateminutes.html>
- Standing Committees <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/faculty-senate/faculty-senatestanding-committees.html>
- Committees: <https://wtaccess.wtamu.edu/committees/>
- Faculty Senate Suggestion Box (<https://forms.office.com/r/1PwVL1ehe9>)
- Sign up for Canvas LMS training: <https://www.trumba.com/calendars/wtamu-it-training> •
New live WTAMU Canvas LMS: <https://wtamu.instructure.com/> • Evaluation of
Administrators:
 - General website: <https://wtaccess.wtamu.edu/resources/> ○ For 2023-2024:
https://wtaccess.wtamu.edu/files/resources/aa/FACULTY_EVAL_ADMIN_SUMMARY_2023-2024.pdf
- PPHM Fire Marshal Inspection Report:
<https://www.newschannel10.com/2025/04/09/report-shows-panhandle-plains-historicalmuseum-fire-safety-violations/>
- Texas Legislature: <https://www.capitol.texas.gov/>



YOU'RE INVITED

Faculty Senate Appreciation Lunch

Hosted by the Office of the President

Friday, May 2, 2025

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Buffalo Room - Isley Terrace

Business Casual Attire

RSVP by April 25 to rsvp@wtamu.edu