

WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2025

Attended: 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, Shanna Peebles, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, John Shanks, Shiquan Tao, Vinu Unnikrishnan

Absent: Kenneth Leitch, Chelsea Kuehler (Proxy: Nancy Steward), Audrey Meador (Kristina Gill), Jim Rogers, Brandli Stitzel, Kerrie Young

President-Elect Gary Byrd called the regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Apr. 4, 2025, to order at 12:17 p.m. in the absence of Kenneth Leitch in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center's Eternal Flame room.

Approval of Prior Meetings

The minutes for the regular meeting on Mar. 21, 2025, were reviewed. Matt Reardon moved to approve the minutes with a minor correction on attendance. The motion was seconded and passed.

Officer's Reports and Remarks

President

1. Meeting with the Provost on April 2, 2025 (prepared remarks)
2. The next meeting with Dr. Wendler will be on Tuesday. Apr. 22

President-Elect

No new business to report.

Secretary

No new business to report.

Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

Notes on the faculty tenure section of the handbook and third-year review were discussed. A motion to change the handbook in section 5.2.6 so that the candidates going up for third-year review receive the committee letters at all levels was seconded and passed.

A change to the language on the handbook to "clarify the process for a 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," was discussed. A motion to review and take a vote on the proposal at the next meeting (4/18) was made, seconded, and 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. Office of Student Accessibility (OSA) requested to speak to the Faculty Senate next academic year (2025-2026) about implementing a new system.
2. Faculty Senate Suggestion Box (no new entries).
3. Faculty Evaluation of Administrators.
 - a. Sent Mon. Feb. 24; reminders will be sent through May 5.
 - b. There was an issue with 23 of 332 faculty not getting the survey; the remaining 23 faculty not initially sent the survey will get access from May 5-12.
4. Comprehensive Peer Evaluation (CPE): In the process, folders went to committees on March 3. CPEs will be completed by April 10.
5. All of the university committee vacancies have been filled.

New Business

1. 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.
2. College of Engineering elections: Tuesday, 29 April 2025, 12:15 – 1:15 PM in ECS 203. Gary Byrd and Brandon Bang will supervise the election.
3. PECANS Spring Faculty and Staff Meeting: Thursday, 08 May 2025, in the Student Senate Chamber from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Brandon Bang and Traci Fredman will supervise the election.
4. FAH: The election will be held on Thursday, 08 May 2025, from 1 to 2 PM in FAC Recital Hall. Dave Howe and Laura Reyher will supervise the process.

Kenneth Leitch will contact the rest of the colleges and coordinate elections.

Upcoming for 2025 Spring

1. President Wendler: 18 Apr 2025 (10 a.m. start)
2. Arrange for Faculty Senate elections: alert your administrators and get the dates for departmental and/or college meetings so that Faculty Senators can be deployed to oversee the voting.
3. New Faculty Senate meeting: May 2025, likely Friday, May 9, from 12:15-1:00 p.m.
 - a. Minutes from Apr. 18 will need to be approved
 - b. Elect new faculty senate executive positions

Adjournment

Matt Reardon moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully,
Nancy García-Franken