



Faculty Advisory Council

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY™

WTAMU Faculty Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2026

Attended: Dr. Benton Allen, Dr. Emilie Baker, Dr. Brandon Bang, Dr. Ray Barbosa, Dr. Ryan Brooks, Mr. Landon Brown, Dr. Betty Coneway, Dr. Bridget Guerrero, Dr. Audrey Meador, Dr. Brandli Stitzel, Dr. Yong Yang, Dr. Walter Wendler

Absent: Dr. Li Chen and Dr. Alee Friemel

The WTAMU Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. in the Geneva Schaeffer Education Building, Conference Room 212.

1. Dr. Wendler remarks

- Civics Instruction
 - WTAMU secured a grant in conjunction with Texas Southern University to promote civics instruction in secondary schools and higher education institutions
 - Dr. Wendler provided information about an all-day symposium on civil discourse to be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at WTAMU. Dr. Wendler asked FAC members to encourage faculty to attend the event.
 - Dr. Wendler provided information about the research associated with the grant and the distinct populations served by WTAMU and Texas Southern.
 - As part of the grant, a four-course sequence in Western Civilization would be offered tuition-free to students. The first course is planned to be offered during the Summer 2026 session.

2. Executive Committee Remarks

- Opening Remarks [Dr. Bang]
 - Updates from last meeting
 - FAC approved the minutes from the last meeting.
 - Dr. Bang provided updates on the Continuing Peer Evaluation (CPE) process. He has been in contact with those undergoing evaluation to submit their materials, as well as coordinating the committees that will review them.
 - Web content accessibility standards: Dr. Bang encouraged FAC members to attend IT's training to stay aware of changes in this area.
 - Ombudsman: Dr. Bang distributed flyers across campus to advertise the Ombudsman position and how faculty may utilize this service.

3. Merit subcommittee report and discussion (Dr. Brooks)

- Dr. Brooks distributed the survey results sent to Department Heads and Faculty Supervisors, as well as a summary of recommendations from the merit subcommittee. Dr.

Brooks encouraged FAC members to take the summary to their respective college faculty and submit their thoughts on the recommendations. Dr. Bang stated that he would email the reports to all FAC members and Deans.

- Dr. Wendler encouraged FAC members to meet with their Deans regularly to facilitate discussions about faculty needs. Dr. Wendler stated he would follow up on this at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Members

- Subcommittee Chair – Dr. Ryan Brooks [SBHCOFAH]
- Dr. Brandon L. Bang [TBRCOESS]
- Dr. Betty Coneway [TBRCOESS]
- Dr. Brandi Stitzel [PVECOB]

4. New business

- Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Discussion
 - Dr. Wendler provided information on the museum's revenue and costs, including state-allocated funds and WTAMU's operational costs. Currently, two sources of funding are needed for the museum: capital improvement expenses and ongoing operations, with significant financial needs.
 - The building is not labeled as a general educational space, which also creates challenges for funding. There are health, safety, and welfare issues associated with the museum building. Dr. Wendler asked the Fire Marshall to revisit the museum and provide an additional report for updates, and should have this information soon. Dr. Wendler provided that other entities have been on campus to discuss the museum, such as the Texas Historical Commission, to develop ideas.
 - The TAMUS has asked Dr. Wendler to reduce deferred maintenance costs. There is a challenge associated with this system initiative at WTAMU due to the age of the campus and the challenges posed by the museum closure.
 - Dr. Wendler stated that he will put forth his best good-faith effort to try to find a solution that is appropriate. Dr. Wendler is optimistic that a resolution can be achieved with the Chancellor's leadership and work with legislators and local public officials. A conceptual plan is in the works, and the hope is to release a general concept in May.
 - Dr. Brooks asked about the students' perspectives, the faculty's access to the archives, and the museum's disposal of artifacts. Dr. Wendler receives frequent reports from the museum director, and if there is no paperwork for an item, it is discarded. The Texas Historical Commission and other bodies have recommended the museum decrease the number of artifacts by 40-50%. So far, 15000 items have been discarded. Dr. Wendler talked about digitizing the paper archives, and discussions have been ongoing with the museum director about this. Dr. Wendler met with the student senate, and the body passed a resolution, but there was no mention of any other organized efforts by this group.

- There was mention of student fees, and it was noted that students are already paying a fee, and that these funds could be used for other university efforts.
- Dr. Guerrero asked what the museum looked like inside. Dr. Wendler provided that artifacts are being removed from exhibits and cleaned out should renovations to the building occur, or in anticipation of any other next steps.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at around 1:25 pm.

Link to the recording of the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/MycEgcX6f3k>

Respectfully,

Audrey Meador, Secretarial Proxy

3/3/2026