



Faculty Senate Agenda
Texas A&M University-Commerce
December 7, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2021
- IV. Guests:
 - a. Dr. Villanueva-Russell – JEDI Certificate Committee
 - b. Ms. Sandi Patton – Student Disability Services
- V. Committee Reports
 - Academic Life – Senator Ponton
 - Academic Practice – Senator Starnes
 - Admission and Retention of Students – Senator Williams
 - Budget – Senator Delgado-Acevedo
 - Curriculum – Senator Pierce
 - Faculty Awards – Senator Jia
 - Organization of the Senate – Senator Palmer
 - Scheduling and Facilities – Senator Greaves Lancaster
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - 1) Reaffirmation of Policy 11.99.99.R0.12 re: Curriculum Changes for 595 Research Courses – Senator Pierce
- IX. Adjournment time



Disability Terminology in Practice

When speaking to or about someone with a disability, it's important to make note of which terms are offensive, outdated, and inappropriate.

Learn why certain terms are used and take a deeper look inside the debate on disability terminology.

PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE

Puts the person before the disability, using phrases like "person with a disability" or "person with autism" instead of "disabled person" or "autistic person."

This approach focuses on the person who is affected by the condition instead of the condition itself; the first words you hear refer to the person as opposed to the disability that person has.

IDENTITY-FIRST LANGUAGE

Uses phrases like "diabetic person" or "disabled person" as opposed to "person with diabetes" or "person with a disability."

Proponents feel these identifiers help people "claim" their disabilities with pride. Identity-first terms may do so because they feel they are celebrating or owning their disability instead of distancing themselves from their disability by adding on the phrase "with a disability."

*If you regularly interact with a person in the disability community, it may be a good idea to inquire about their preference and use that going forward.

PERSON-FIRST	IDENTITY-FIRST	OFFENSIVE & NOT RECOMMENDED
Person with a disability	Disabled person	Disabled, the disabled, cripple, victim, spastic, spaz, handicapped, the handicapped, abnormal, dumb/deaf-mute, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or vegetable
Person with an intellectual disability	Intellectually disabled person	Mental handicap, mentally retarded, or mentally handicapped
Person with a mental health disability	Mentally disabled person	Mad, crazy, schizo, schizophrenic, insane, nuts, psycho, psychotic, demented, senile, looney, or lunatic
Person who uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair-user	Wheelchair-bound or confined to a wheelchair
Has...(diagnosis)	Adjective form of diagnosis (i.e. 'autistic') person	Suffers from... Afflicted with... Stricken with... Victim of...
Person without a disability	Not disabled or non-disabled	Normal

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/38smezm5>