

Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

March 3, 2026

In-Person:

Tami Morton, Brad Klypchak, Maggie Salem, Peter Williams, Pamela Webster, Jason Davis, Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt, Christian “Kiki” Hempelmann, Josephine Durkin, Saurabh Srivastava, Celine Hoe, LaVelle Hendricks, Jeff Kopachena, Julie Mills, and Whitney Figland

Online:

Beth Bailey, Laura Slay, Catrina Soto, Dee Besson, and Nicole Farris

Guests: Provost Tami Vacha-Haase, President Mark Rudin, and Chancellor Glenn Hegar

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Tami Morton with Opening Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve from Beth Bailey, second by Jason Davis
 - b. Motion Passed
3. Open Forum
 - a. Some discussion on combining Open forum with New Business
4. Communications Discussion
 - a. FAC members are charged with communicating FAC communication to their respective Colleges
 - b. Discussion on University Procedure 21.01.99.R1
5. Committee Updates
 - a. Awards Committee-Committee Member Jason Davis provided updates on the FAC awards including number of awards, intent of awards. Nominations are due Thursday, March 5.
 - b. Organization of the Council Committee-Committee Chair Brad Klypchak provided updates including gathering information on emerging themes on language, open meeting definition, and the necessity of necessary committees and contradictions.
 - c. Webmaster-Committee Chair Jason Davis provided updates to the development of the FAC website
6. New Business
 - a. Jason Davis provided updates on Ally Reports, including faculty concerns of inefficiency
 - b. TAMUS System Faculty Advisory Group Update
 - i. Tami Morton presented information on member institutions attending the meetings, concerns of censorship of content, AI and AI policies,

general education reviews (Core Courses and their alignment with System Policies)

- c. Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) 2026 Spring Assembly
 - i. Tami Morton presented TCFS discussion included the question if institutions would continue with FACs, academic freedom, academic integrity, and accreditation concerns
 - ii. TAMUS provided support for the FAC, the only one to date
 - d. LaVelle Hendricks brought discussion on R1 Status
 - i. Tami Vacha-Haase presented informal updates on where ETAMU sits with external funding and where some other member institutions are with Carnegie status and progress towards higher status, some members have dollar expenditures but lack doctoral students. ETAMU is in a good position with doctoral programs and students. Tami Vacha-Haase asks us to consider: “How have we moved into and embraced being an R2?” “How do we look at faculty workload?” “What research support does there need to be?”
 - e. LaVelle Hendricks brought discussion on Cayuse and Citi Training inconsistencies
 - i. Teams is working on getting Cayuse and Citi (.tamuc and .etamu) to “talk” to each other
 - f. Jason Davis brought discussion concerning Ad Hoc Committees, the three standing committee are official committees, not Ad Hoc
 - g. Peter Williams brought discussion on Artificial Intelligence, academic honesty, and AI in teaching, academic honesty in teaching, and FERPA
7. Guests
- a. Provost Tami Vacha-Haase asks the FAC group about concerns
 - i. Concerns about recording the meetings was presented “Where/How can we discuss concerns openly if FAC is recorded?”
 - ii. SB 17 and censorship of courses was discussed
 - b. President Mark Rudin presented discussion on enrollment and revenue streams (Tuition and Formula Funding); it behooves us to have as many weighed sch as possible during base period
 - i. Where is ET right now? We have work to do, to increase sch
 - 1. Undergrad is doing well
 - a. Good work on retention
 - b. Dual credit is doing well
 - 2. Graduate numbers are down going into base year
 - a. Continues downward trend

- b. International students being limited affects ET
 - ii. President Rudin asks ETAMU/FAC to consider: “What are our priorities?”
 - iii. FAC Discussion included merit pay, perceived faculty value, addition of administrative positions, deferred maintenance, and faculty salaries.
 - iv. President Rudin addressed the university’s financial goals outside of tuition and formula funding. Discussion included: TAMUS assistance (e.g. demolition), recruitment/retention, outside funding, enrollment management, streamlining efficiencies,
 - c. Chancellor Hegar was invited for an impromptu visit, met and visited with FAC briefly and informally
8. Meeting Adjourned 4:16-Motion by Maggie Salem, second by Whitney Figland