

**Texas A&M International University**  
**TAMIU Faculty Senate**  
**September Meeting**  
**12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
**STC 230**

- I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Hayley Kazen at 12:00 p.m.
- II. *Roll Call:* Dr. Hayley Kazen, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Ms. Jeanette Hatcher, Dr. Diana Linn, Dr. James Norris, Dr. Andrew Hazelton, Dr. Cynthia Sosa, Dr. Deepak Ganta, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova, Dr. Li-Zheng Brooks, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Ms. San Juanita Hernandez, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. Kate Houston, Dr. Juan Hinojosa, and Mr. Timothy Rubel.
- III. Our guests were given the floor:

**Dr. Pablo Arenaz**

Dr. Arenaz announced that our fall enrollment is 8,532. Dr. Arenaz mentioned the A&M System is still working on the FAQs for Senate Bill 17 but will be made available soon. There are also some suggested changes to 12.06 of the Standard Administrative Procedures (SAPs) concerning Post Tenure Review. The Provost will form a committee in consultation with Senator Kazen, to review the suggested changes. Dr. Arenaz also mentioned he was in meetings to discuss Senate Bill 12; this is in reference to the proposed restriction of some public drag shows. According to the *Texas Tribune*, a judge has issued a restraining order and the bill will not go anywhere for now. He also announced there will be modifications to academic materials, specifically faculty authored materials. The Vice Chancellor will provide guidance based on faculty input.

Dr. Arenaz mentioned teaching loads as a discussion point during his State of the University address at this year's Convocation. He briefly discussed that as a regional university the following teaching loads are considered: 1) the default teaching load is 4/4 and 2) 3/3 teaching load for being research active. In addition, there are about 40 faculty research releases available for faculty to apply. Dr. Arenaz mentioned Regent Professors have a standard 2/2 teaching load and faculty teaching doctoral students also have a 2/2 teaching load. While there are no guarantees, there may also be modifications to a teaching load if faculty have salary money from external grants to buy out a faculty's teaching load. Dr. Arenaz will review the teaching workload of faculty teaching Ph.D. students.

Dr. Arenaz informed the Senate that in conjunction with the Provost, a five-year review of all Department Chairs will begin. Dr. Arenaz will review the policy of copyright of course materials and inform the Senate after questions were raised

detailing potential issues with maintaining copyright of course materials like lecture notes and slide decks.

### **Dr. Claudia San Miguel**

Dr. San Miguel encourages all faculty to be present and involved as much as possible because it is important for student success and to be part of the committee work at TAMIU. Dr. San Miguel mentioned the importance of faculty posting office hours and to be timely in responding to students. She also mentioned the significance of Colleges having rubrics in place for the annual evaluation of faculty to make the evaluation process objective. She encouraged Senators to revisit the process to ensure robust rubrics are in place. Dr. San Miguel mentioned all Dean and interim positions are open to searches and that faculty be involved in the process. Except for the Dean of Graduate School, the Deans and Library Director search committees have been formed.

- IV. The minutes for the May 5, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with no corrections.
- V. New Business:
  1. Senator Kazen passed a list of committee assignments and asked Senators to discuss and identify a committee chair for all respective committees and inform her via email.
  2. The list of committee assignments also includes faculty ideas for potential discussion points for the academic year. The discussion points for each committee were reviewed by the Senators. Senator Kazen mentioned the importance of Senators taking minutes during committee meetings and uploading the minutes to the appropriate folders in Microsoft Teams. All committee minutes will be posted to the Senate website. Senators were also informed of faculty being invited to committee meetings.
  3. Together with the Fixed Term Faculty Committee, the Faculty Handbook Committee was charged with reviewing the reclassification policy draft.
  4. The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was charged with discussing how to have more input in incorporating technology in student spaces and rewriting a description in the Faculty Handbook. The TAC was also charged in creating “quick tips” for email retention and free software installation and uploading these to the Faculty Senate website.
  5. Senator Kate Houston discussed the ongoing conversation between the Honor Council, Senator Kazen, and Dr. San Miguel regarding the concerns over whether faculty want guidelines in navigating AI in the classroom or if the guidelines might impinge on academic freedom of faculty. A survey has been created and

will be sent to faculty to obtain faculty input.

6. The Ethics Committee was charged with generating a resources sheet and defining and clarifying what is an ethics violation.
7. The creation of a Faculty Senate mission statement was discussed. Senator Kazen informed the Senators that all A&M System Faculty Senates have a mission statement. Senator Kazen will send a draft for Senators to review.
8. Senator Kazen also mentioned future discussions regarding a wider election process of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. This requires a change in constitution. The Senate presently elects the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
9. All Executive Council and Deans' Council minutes are posted to the Faculty Senate website in a timely manner.
10. The SB 18 subcommittee is to be determined. The SB 18 subcommittee will be university wide, and Senator Kazen asked Dr. San Miguel for all Colleges to have representation.
11. All search committee assignments have been decided, and members have been informed. Campus visits have been completed for University College Dean. The search for Associate Provost is also ongoing.
12. Senator Kazen mentioned the Faculty Senate FAQ website page as a resource where faculty can obtain answers to common questions and directly contact the Faculty Senate with a specific concern.
13. Senator Hatcher updated the Senators on the vacancy status of respective University Committees.

VI. Old Business:

1. Four-day presence is no longer a discussion item.
2. Updates continue with SB 17 and 18 as the A&M System makes changes.

VII. Announcements and Other Business:

1. Senators were asked to determine a schedule for committee meetings so that faculty are invited. The information will be posted to the Senate's website.

VIII. The next 2023-2024 Faculty Senate meeting will be October 6, 2023, and Senator Kazen will send an agenda soon. Senators were asked to submit agenda items by October 4, 2023.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.