

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2025 **Time:** 12:00 PM **Location:** The Oak Room

1. Attendance

1.1. Members Present

- Chris Hudson, President
- Asanga Ranasinghe, Vice-President
- Piper Johansen, Parliamentarian
- Pam Ortega, Secretary
- Stephen Malley
- Derreck Jett
- Tanner Hargrove
- Letha Black
- Treiva Daniels
- Delane McUne
- Rashmi Pillai
- Michael Hart

1.2. Members Absent

- Annette Watts
 - Brent Gandy
 - Sara Welshimer
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2. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Malley moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Asanga Ranasinghe. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. New Business

Frank Sobey-VPAA update

Badger Bound-Update in VPAA newsletter sent today (12/5)

- North Heights-alternative school-looking at pathways for these students
- BB customized to every ISD, every high school

- AISD buy in-positive results
- Pain points-failures-how do we deal with them in DC/Badger Bound?
- We are delivering a college class and have an obligation to maintain standards/rigor. We cannot sacrifice that. With B, stakes are raised. Region 16 is an outstanding partner for us. More events with school district administrators. Need to be highly communicative. Need to listen especially if there is negative feedback. Need to make sure it is quality.
- Margin of error at the beginning but looking into the future, students can begin DC as early as their freshman year of high school. Mindful that we are getting student on the pathway as early as possible.
- Looking at starting with FYS DC in Spring 26 at North Heights. Piloting a class or two this spring to see how it goes.
- More than just classes we offer. Introducing them to programs, etc.
- AISD-jr class is last class with Thrive-class of 2027-availability until 2030 to finish at AC
- BB starts in Fall 2026
- Building 15 hour pathway for all programs-our obligation is to provide that for them
- Easier for students with FAST as they have free dual credit classes
- CTE students-trying to get them program specific classes to get them on a pathway-now have funding for technical dual credit
- Math dept gives facilitator autonomy-best model is qualified IOR on the high school campus
- Looking at getting more high school teachers qualified at IOR

SB 37-syllabus statement-concern from faculty, which puts more scrutiny on what is taught in the classroom, A&M professor who was fired because of what he taught, what are our protections as faculty, ACGM prescribes what the course description and outcomes are for each course, sent ideas to Mark White on what we can/should add to our syllabi-waiting for feedback, don't want to create a road map to complaints, so we are trying to link it to our policies and what the state has established for us SB 12-K12 space-parental rights consent form-full disclosure bill-how will it impact us because of dual credit-waiting on guidance from TAC and TCCTA, and Mark White, Best case is if students take DC with us, parents/students sign a waiver. We have responsibility to deliver the same content for dc and regular academic courses at the college.

Piper suggested that the two bills overlap as we are already looking at a syllabus statement. But, the waiver would be on the high school's shoulders.

Possible answers to bring to senate in the spring.

Core Advisory Council-will release all information in early March-coordinating board does not want it to be changed before it is officially announced. There will be a reduced core. Frank is advocating that gen ed core counts toward all credit that is binding at any university in Texas. Toughest sell to make them binding because some 4 years do not want to conform. Frank will send updates as he learns more.

Open Questions-Asanga asked whether AC has a policy on sabbaticals for faculty. Frank is not aware of any policy we have about it. AC is a teaching and learning college. Giving someone a sabbatical is

contrary to what we are. But he has looked at it from the faculty. It would put a burden on other faculty if a faculty member takes one. Dept chairs and deans would have to manage it.

Frank-It depends mainly on how it is defined. Arguments could be made, but it would be for a community college version not what is done at a 4 year university. Release time could be an option. A policy would have to go through the senate, Dr. Connor, and the board.

4. Committee Reports:

The following committees had reports:

- Elections: Delane sent a list of faculty members. With new by laws, elections must be updated
- TCCTA: today at 2 pm meeting with dual credit
- Hospitality: Treiva brought snacks for this meeting
- Faculty Development Committee: More presentations than rooms. Wrap up final details before christmas break.

5. Open Forum-

- Frank's office will take over the email system for the faculty senate.-Steve brought up concern about turnover in Frank's office. Need a faculty senate representative to solicit Frank's office for aid.
- New officer-Historian of faculty senate-brought up to Dr. Connor-would be elected by the senate and approved by her. We can vote on that in the spring because it will need to be addressed in the election piece of by-laws.
 - Steve asked about PD chief. Hiring process? Where are we?
- Steve budget concerns-Lack of communication and transparency-great time to choose transparency-social media is full of conspiracy theories-inconsistent messages in emails Chris suggested Dr. Connor send out what was presented to the board-Derrick suggested send out regular forms of communication
 - Is there a pause in all hiring? Or is it just non-faculty?
- Department Policy-Biology-no hybrids at Washington Street-Would not go into effect until Spring 2026. One specific faculty member has a hybrid course and an online, not on par with the policy. Lack of transparency in dept to faculty level-showing signs of favoritism-deferred to questions committee

6.Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM. The motion to adjourn was made by Delane and seconded by Piper Johansen.

Next meeting is February 6.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Ortega, Secretary Faculty Senate