

“Research at state universities is critical to guaranteeing Texas remains economically competitive. Texas is on the right track. . . But we must do more. The state should continue to invest in research that brings high-paying jobs, external funding, and patents to Texas. Research expands our understanding of the world around us and creates the knowledge that will be taught to students in classrooms across the world. Talented faculty and researchers produce groundbreaking innovations with important real-world applications” (Gov. Greg Abbott, 2020-21 Budget, pp. 6-7).



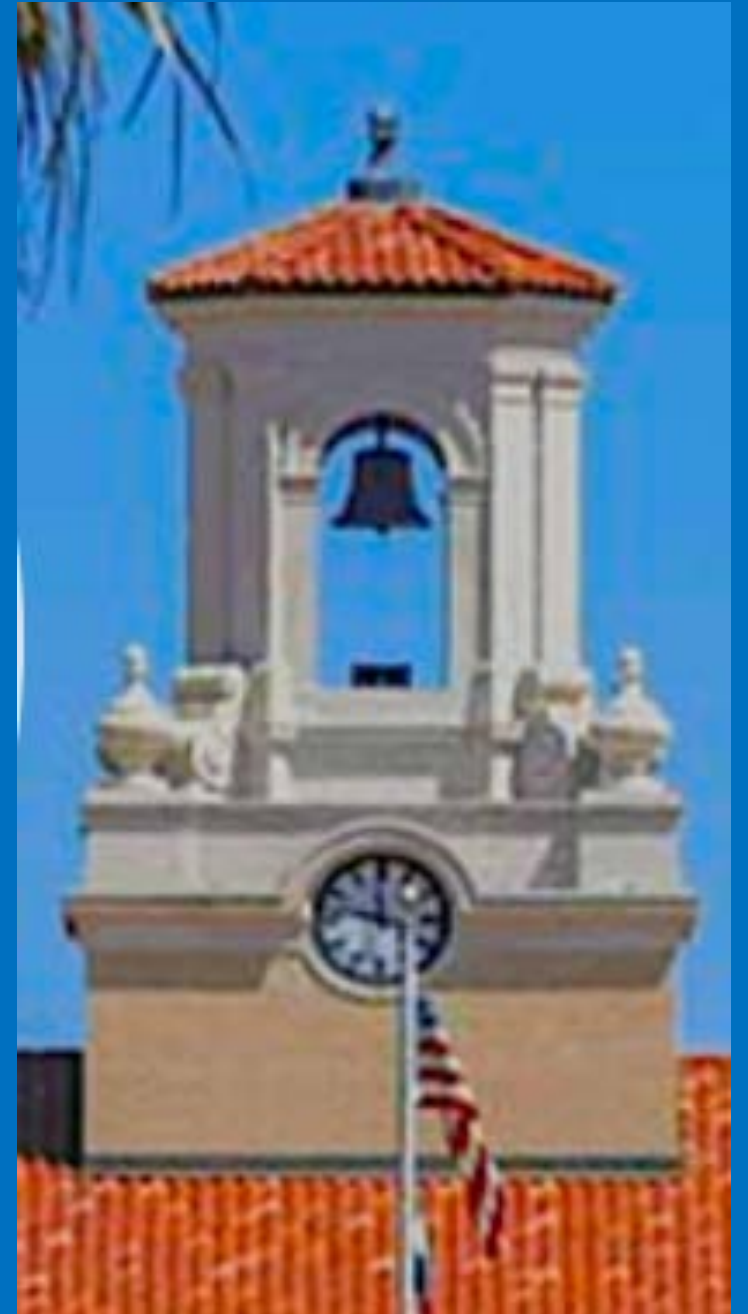
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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE®

FACULTY SENATE

President Hussey's Presentation





Agenda for Tuesday, February 2, 2021

- Provost's Presentation
- Minutes Approval (1 Dec 2020)
- Reports
- New Business
- Announcements



Provost's Presentation



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Minutes Approval



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A dark blue banner with white and yellow text. On the left is the Texas A&M University-Kingsville logo. The main text reads "this is OUR TIME" with "this is" in a script font and "OUR TIME" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, "TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE®" is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "FACULTY SENATE" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.



Meeting Date: January 21, 2021

Emergency
Management
Team Report
Christine Radcliff

- Over half the students are still at home and not on campus. 865 students have checked into the residence halls.
- Numbers are increasing like they did at the start of the Fall semester.
- All returning athletes have been tested and fewer than 10 tested positive.
- **New Covid-19 test registration process.**
 - Curative is now collecting insurance information, but there is still no cost.
 - TAMU System was paying \$140 per test and wanted to reduce their cost.
- **CCYC Plan for Spring**
 - Opened January 25th
 - 8 staff and teachers will be tested every 2 weeks
 - No thoughts on increasing testing due to new strains at this time

Emergency Management Team Report Christine Radcliff

Meeting Date: January 21, 2021

- **TAMUK Vaccine Application**

- TAMUK is an approved provider, but no idea if/when we would receive the vaccine
- Vaccine distribution is controlled by the State
- Clinic staff is working to create a process/protocol just in case

- **TAMUK C-19 Testing**

- If numbers increase higher than administrators are comfortable with, then they will start asking employees in high contact/high volume areas to test.
- President Sherris was asked to discuss required testing of faculty teaching face-to-face with the full Senate.

BLM in Texas Higher Education


18 December 2020 Zoom Meetings (organizer and note taker, Ari Sherris)



1. Texas A&M University-Kingsville
2. Texas A&M University International
3. Texas A&M University Commerce
4. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
5. University of Texas at Arlington
6. University of Texas of the Permian Basin
7. University of Houston-Downtown
8. Angelo State University
9. University of North Texas
10. Tarleton State University-Fort Worth



"Black Lives Matter" has been painted in massive yellow letters on 16th Street NW near the White House. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post, 5 June 2020)



Black Lives Matter in Texas Higher Education

Report Faculty
Senate President
Ari Sherris



Antiracist activities that have happened or are in process

- Antiracist pedagogies developing
 - Antiracist protests, marches, vigils
 - Name changes (e.g., campus lake, building, street, symbolic power of language recognized)
 - Antiracist letters, statements, FB live interviews by chancellors, presidents, campus leaders
 - Speakers on antiracism
 - Cross-cultural competence workshops, professional development
 - Councils, committees, taskforces set up to organize/enact antiracist campus activities
- 

Black Lives Matter in Texas Higher Education

Report Faculty
Senate President
Ari Sherris

Wishlist of antiracist activities

- To develop enough of a trans-campus movement to be able to use for leverage locally. In the same way that many of us might use FAC or TCFS or AAUP, it would be nice to have a body that has some heft that we can take back to our campus that says "well, the BLM Faculty movement says campuses ought to do 'x'."
- Locally, to have students grab the baton of leadership -- perhaps inspired by faculty, mentored by faculty, but not necessarily led by faculty. (After the analogy of Ella Baker in the Civil Rights Movement)
- For many of us to remember to be good allies, not sanctimonious ones, and to listen as much as we talk.

Black Lives Matter in Texas Higher Education

Report Faculty
Senate President
Ari Sherris

Wishlist of antiracist activities

- To have campus and alumni artists (musicians, poets, painters, sculptors, dancers, etc.) present original creative work on antiracism via Facebook live/zoom events; to have these organized and selected by a steering committee of members from the Black Student Unions, Student Governments, Faculty Senates and the Alumni associations.
- To have links to texts and teaching modules on antiracism—a living document/webpage—shared across our colleges of Arts & Sciences, Education, Agriculture, Business, Nursing, Medicine, Engineering, etc.
- to have an interdisciplinary bibliography of source materials and texts germane to each discipline.

Black Lives Matter in Texas Higher Education

Report Faculty
Senate President
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Wishlist of antiracist activities

- To advocate for more diversity in Cabinets and Regents/Trustees
- To decolonize the curriculum in all disciplines
- To diversify hiring practices
- To increase/support grassroots organizing
- To raise the awareness for regular antiracist activity from deans and all upper-administrators

Challenges

- Alumni stonewalling antiracist activism/activities
- Doner criticism of antiracist activism/activities
- Leadership that only pays lip service to antiracism

Participation in BLM in Higher Education

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSCOWIhOyM10uIEyLH3h9yNNtsegz4DgP3zPG5erZqLAK6KQ/viewform?gxids=7628>

Report Faculty
Senate President
Ari Sherris



Council on Climate,
 Diversity & Inclusion
 Report
 Jieming Chen, Faculty
 Senate
 Representative

• Summary

- The President's Council on Climate, Diversity and Inclusion met on January 13, 2021. Dr. Hussey was present in the meeting. Ms. Barbara Collins and Mr. Henry Burgos were facilitators. All committee members were present.
- The focus of the meeting was on the following proposals:
 - Office of Climate, Diversity and Inclusion
 - George Floyd scholarship
 - George Floyd symposium
 - Hispanic Legacy as it relates to the civil rights movement
- Dr. Hussey is supportive to the proposal of establishing an Office of Climate, Diversity and Inclusion, and he is in favor of a symposium in honor of George Floyd.
- CDI members commented on several proposals that they would like to see moving forward.

Council on Climate, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Jieming Chen, Faculty Senate Representative

- Additional recommendations

- There were some lively discussions about the proposed symposium. More detailed recommendations were made about the event.
- The discussions about establishing a scholarship in honor of George Floyd appeared to be inconclusive.
- Dr. Manuel Flores proposed to build a permanent fixture that honors the Chicano civil rights movement. He also suggested some additional actions to celebrate the movement.

- Additional actions

- A sub-committee will be formed to implement the plan of establishing a CDI office.
- A sub-committee is needed to further study the symposium plan.

Guidebook for Department Chairs

Task Force Chair: Jeffrey Glick

- Estimated Completion Date: April Faculty Senate meeting, but this is likely to be an evolving document.
- Summary: We are outlining the standard tasks, processes, and issues that arise for department chairs. The goals are to provide new chairs with an overview of what they will need to do, and to give faculty a sense of the scope of responsibilities that chairs have. Where chairs' responsibilities differ by college, we will flag those.

Old Business

- Chair: “Move to discuss the motion. Is there a second?”
 - If there is a second, discussion begins...
- Chair: “Are you ready to question?”
 - If no one raises a hand to continue the discussion:
 - Chair: “The question is on the adoption of the motion that...”
 - Let’s bring it to a vote”

Committee Reports

Standing Committee Reports

- Committee on Committees
- Election Committee
- Resolution & By-laws Committee

Reports from Committees Reporting to the Senate

- Administrator Evaluation Committee
- Annual Faculty Lecture Committee
- Piper Award Committee
- Faculty Evaluation Committee
- Faculty Benefits Committee
- Policy Revision Committee
- Task-Force on Faculty Handbook Change



Elections Committee Report Christine Radcliff, Chair

- The vote for **the amendment** was sent to the general faculty on January 15, 2021. Voting closed yesterday February 1, 2021.
- The committee will meet this week to discuss dates for upcoming Department and At-Large elections.
- **AMMENDMENT PASSED**

Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure & Promotion Processes

Members

Dr. Kelly Hall	College of Education
Dr. Michael Houf	College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Tanner Machado	College of Agriculture
Dr. Tom Krueger	College of Business
Dr. Patrick L. Mills (Chair)	College of Engineering

Primary Mission

Work with the Office of Academic Affairs (Drs. Reinisch and Goswami) on proposed tenure and promotion policy changes that will be brought to Faculty Senate's *Policy Revision Committee* and eventually to the floor of the Faculty Senate.

Meetings – Once a Week September, 2020 – January 28, 2021

- Preparatory meeting (40 minutes) & Meeting w/VP & AVP of Academic Affairs (55 minutes)
- Provost Reinisch is preparing final report to be sent forward to Faculty Senate

Examples of Items Being Proposed

- Move the major review to the fall semester of the fourth year.
- Faculty members are allowed to add materials to their portfolio during the review process.
- Tenure should be linked to promotion from assistant professor to associate professor.
- External letters of review of the candidates for tenure and/or promotion.
- Advisory Committee and Hearing Committee – minimum of one member from each college



New Business

Chair: “Move to discuss the motion. Is there a second?”
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If no one raises a hand to continue the discussion:

Chair: “The question is on the adoption of the motion that...
Let’s bring it to a vote”

Required COVID-19 testing of face-to-face teaching faculty

MOTION:

THAT THE FACULTY SENATE DISCUSSES THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND IS SURVEYED ANNOYMOUSLY:
“Should faculty who teach in face-to-face classrooms be required to be regularly tested for COVID-19?”

BACKGROUND:

- Until now campus students, faculty, staff, and administration **have not been required** to be tested for COVID-19. Policy has been that they should be tested if they show symptoms. The exception, until now, has been campus athletes who participate in contact sports and the faculty and staff who work with them per NCAA rules.
- Currently, TAMUK leadership is considering requiring testing on a regular basis (possibly every 2 weeks) of certain sectors of the campus community. This would include those who interact in close proximity with groups of people on a regular basis.
- The University Emergency Management Team (Jan 21, 2021) would like Senators to weigh in the following question: ***Should faculty who teach in face-to-face classrooms be required to be regularly tested for COVID-19?***



Motion from the floor

Motion:

That the faculty senate executive committee as well as the university president and administration advocate on behalf of the TAMUK faculty as well as for all university faculty to be moved up in COVID-19 vaccine priority in the state of Texas due to the increased return to face-to-face classes.

PASSED

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Please email all motions and resolutions to FacultySenateOfficers@tamuk.edu no later than Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 5:00 pm CT if you would like the Executive Committee to add them to the Tuesday, Faculty Senate Agenda.
- Our next 2021 Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm and it will be online.
- Senators may raise motions and resolutions from the floor rather than submit them to the EC. However, Senators should have them ready in writing as in the format on slide # 13 here: https://www.tamuk.edu/senate/files_FS/7-APRIL-2020-FACULTY-SENATE-PRESENTATION.pdf



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Announcements Christine Radcliff




Library funds available for purchases for FY2021.

- Liaisons, Chairs and Deans received allocation letters in late October via email from Christine Radcliff. **Deadline for item requests is May 28, 2021**

TAMUK FS 2021 Distinguished Service Award

- Nominations will open today February 2, 2021 and will close Friday March 26, 2021.

TAMUK Budget Documents

-  **TAMUK Operating & Salary Budget, FY2021**
 Operating & salary budget for FY2021
-  **TAMUK Operating Budget, FY2020**
 Operating budget for FY2020.
-  **TAMUK Salary Budget, FY2020**
 Salary budget for FY2020

<https://libguides.tamuk.edu/tamukbudget>

Report Faculty
 Senate President
 Ari Sherris



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ADJOURNMENT