



# Faculty Senate General Session

February 13, 2026  
LIB 101 and Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

## Roll Call

Akinleye x	Acho x	Barnett x	Beatty x	Beins x
Blosser x	Burke x	Chen x	Dice x	Dillon x
Du (sub)	Dunlap x	Elkins x	Fredrickson x	Gates x
Gullion x	Immanuel x	Landrum x	Lucero Jones x	Maier x
Miketinas x	Mooney x	Night x	Petersen x	Rosa-Dávila x
Sen x	Smith x	Trujillo-Jenks x	van Erve x	Williams x
				Woods x

**Parliamentarian:** Dr. Parker Hevron

**TCFS Representative:** Dr. Shawnda Smith

**Substitute:** Dr. Denhui Wang, substitute for Dr. Xiaofen Du – Nutrition and Food Sciences

## Recognition of Guests:

Faculty: Dr. Jennifer Danley-Scott, Dr. Katherine Landdeck, Dr. Catherine Mbango, Dr. Junalyn Navarro-Madsen, Dr. Yoonsun Pyun, Dr. Nila Ricks, Dr. Alannah Shelby Rivers, Dr. Gray Scott,  
Staff: Ms. Stephany Compton, Mr. Scott Martin, Dr. Lynda Murphy, Mr. Marcus Wentzel

## Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve, \_Maier; second, Elkins  
0 abstained; motion passed unanimously.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda with Changes (removing Faculty Workloads from Closed Session), Blosser; second, Landrum  
Motion passed unanimously.

## Vote to Enter Closed Session

Motion to Approve, Van Erve; second, Smith  
Motion passes unanimously.

## Closed Senate Session

- Senate Composition for 2026-27



## **Forum for Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs – Dr. Erika Armstrong**

### **Watermark**

- Still have support available inputting CVs into the system through Faculty Commons.
- Faculty reviews: Some hiccups occurred, but we were able to address those manually.
- Hoping to launch faculty profiles this spring semester, probably by the end of the semester. Information for faculty profiles will be pulled from Watermark.
- Armstrong has met with Peer Review committees, and they will provide feedback on categories and templates; welcomes Senate feedback in that regard as well, and requests the feedback to be provided in a single document.

### **Faculty Awards**

- Deadline reminder: Monday, February 23.
- Discussing the process with the faculty awards committee; meeting at the end of April in the hopes to streamline the process to make it less cumbersome.

### **Committee to Discuss Teaching and Research Ranks**

- Committee meeting on Monday; lots of interest from faculty to join. Likely, Jacob Blosser to be appointed chair of the committee.

### **New Vice Provost for Academic Resource Management**

- Beth Reissenweber was already very involved with Academic Affairs budgeting; this move means 100% of her job will be academic affairs-related.
- She will assist Academic Affairs with budgeting.
- She will report directly to the Provost with a “dotted line” to the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Jason Tomlinson.

### **Guidance for Hiring International Candidates**

- Academic Affairs has met with Wonny Lervisit, AG; will develop language to include in job ads to state that TWU will not be able to sponsor international candidates for visas, given Texas’s new rules on sponsorship for visas by state universities.

### **Speaker Report – Dr. Emarely Rosa Dávila**

- Farewell for President Christopher in Dallas: wrote a resolution of appreciation on behalf of the Faculty Senate to thank her for her efforts.
- Core curriculum committee has been approved by the Board of Regents.
- Course review: we are at 60% of courses that have been reviewed, ahead of schedule.
- Speaker met with General Counsel this week:

- General Counsel suggested that our bylaws don't have to go to the Board of Regents; the last stop is going to be the Chancellor. That is what is written in the new URP that creates the faculty senate. However, General Counsel informed the Speaker that whatever language we want to include in the bylaws needs to be forwarded to the General Counsel for approval *before* the first reading in Faculty Senate. She will then also want to see the approved version.
  - Senators remark that this raises issues of independence; to have approval from General Counsel before discussing the proposed content of bylaws with Senate itself is akin to a form of prior approval that shouldn't need to happen for an independent body.
  - Senate leadership will continue conversations with General Counsel about this and find out the reasoning behind the changes in this process.
- General Counsel office is benchmarking Faculty Senate bylaws against those of other institutions and may propose changes. General Counsel says there may be gray areas that might need to be resolved or further developed to be more explicit.
  - Again, this raises concerns of independence; Senators understand compliance is necessary, but that this creates an opportunity for unnecessary overreach and sets Faculty Senate up to be a virtual extension of the Chancellor's office.
  - Senators also raise concerns about this dilution of shared governance, and remark that this might make participation in Faculty Senate and shared governance not worth it to faculty if there's no room to achieve real results. Other Senators stress the importance of continued shared governance as a benefit for community, productivity, and research capacity—to work effectively as an institution of higher education.
  - Senators would like to know what inspired the General Counsel's office to want to benchmark our constitution and bylaws.
- Workload concerns: survey
  - Leadership has been receiving a lot of concerns about workload, overloads, things that are out of the ordinary.
  - Faculty members have approached Senate Leadership about these workload concerns.
  - Leadership has created a survey to collect information from all faculty at the University to gather more data about various interpretations of the workload policy across the institution and to make visible the lived experiences of faculty across the institution so that the Senate can accurately fulfill its advisory role with Academic Affairs.
  - Provost shared at Board of Regents meeting that Project Thrive was created because Faculty Senate wanted a Budget Committee.

- Faculty Senate Leadership will meet with the Provost and Mark Hamner to discuss the contents of the survey; this may get revised.
- Senators want to make sure this survey allows for questions about varying experiences within units.

**Unfinished Business** — Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila

- **Second Readings:**

- URP 02.255 Digital Learning
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and Senate's comments and move them forward: Blosser; Second, Landrum. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.260 Learning Management System
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and move them forward: Dillon; Second, Blosser. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.270 Assignments and Exams during Last Week of Classes
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and move them forward: Lucero-Jones; Second, Mooney. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.340 Affiliated Faculty Appointments
  - Title of academic program administrator is ambiguous; lack of clarity—sometimes program director may be the appropriate person to make decision on affiliating someone. Timing also appears burdensome.
  - VP Armstrong says they can certainly look at timing.
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and comments from Senate and move them forward: Blosser; Second, Dillon. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.344 Ranks and Titles of University Faculty
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and move them forward: Landrum; Second, Maier. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.364 Salary for Administrators Returning to Faculty
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and move them forward: Van Erve; Second, Lucero-Jones. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.400 Research Intellectual Property
  - Question with regards to where intellectual property belongs. If they create any artwork or creative efforts, does TWU own the rights to that? Does it make a difference if it's partially funded with an internal grant? Does TWU get a cut upon sale, or a cut of potential royalties?
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and comments from Senate and move them forward: Mooney; Second, Trujillo-Jenks. No objections, motion passes.
- URP 02.XXX Digital Course Materials Intellectual Property
  - Motion to Approve Policy with Changes and move them forward: Van Erve; Second, Acho. No objections, motion passes.

**New Business** — Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila

- **First Reading**
  - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment — Dr. Aaron Elkins
    - Adding a sentence specifying a start and end date for the terms of Senators. Terms of office begin on June 1, ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This change is being proposed to comply with SB37.

**Speaker Pro Tem Report** – Dr. Suzanna Dillon

- No report.

**Secretary Report** – Dr. Wouter van Erve

- No report.

**Report from TCFS Representative** – Dr. Shawnda Smith

- No report.

**Project Thrive**

- Program Viability — Suzanna Dillon
  - Continue to make forward progress. Continue work on rubric and framework, moving away from financial metrics into more qualitative aspects of programs.
- Budget Transparency — Jeff Williams
  - Committee has been divided into two subgroups: data access planning and standardized reporting framework. Data access group has been working on developing a dashboard with IT Solutions. Standardized reporting framework group has been working on uniform presentation of budgets as well as accuracy. Budget transparency group is sending out a survey to certain faculty with specific questions about training, information use and needs, frequency of use; ease of access; training needs. First round of survey was only sent to Deans and Associate Deans, this time select faculty will be included as well.

**New Faculty Concerns**

- Faculty Workloads URP 02.305 — Dr. Supriya Sen
  - Concerns are captured by discussion regarding faculty workload survey. Would like faculty to complete a survey so we get a full diagnostic of faculty experiences with workload issues.
- Continuing Parking Concerns: Parking Enforcement — Prof. Alisa Woods/Dr. Rebecca Lucero-Jones
  - Concerns about payroll deductions for adjunct faculty for parking permits; was not available but has been fixed.
  - Adjunct faculty are concerned about having to purchase a parking permit for the entire academic year when they might only be teaching for a semester.

- Parking is looking into prorated parking for adjunct faculty.
- Dallas security doesn't have authority over parking; Denton campus officials hand out tickets in Dallas.
- Lack of parking enforcement, specifically in faculty reserved spots.
  - Response from parking enforcement: Try to enforce best we can; reach out to them if you need a particular enforcement action. Parking enforcement has been asked to stop placing holds on student transcripts. Want to have a process for booting cars up by fall. Specific requirements are involved; currently engaged in a process to contract with an outside provider to facilitate this process.
  - Parking consequences are progressive; based on late tickets. (Three late tickets makes students eligible for further consequences.)
  - Visitor parking: for groups or guest speakers (anyone with a legitimate business purpose), inform parking enforcement ahead of time and request visitor permit. For one-off visitors, there are Parkmobile parking lots where you can pay.
- IT Support in new HSC Building — Dr. Rebecca Lucero-Jones
  - Minor comment: building has a different IT point person. Faculty would welcome an announcement on the website directing people to the specific IT point person for that building. Speaker will let Dr. Torres know.
- Proof editing for dissertations pushed to chairs and faculty — Dr. Rebecca Lucero-Jones
  - Faculty have been informed that chairs and faculty now have editing responsibilities for theses and dissertations; this is a new task that may be outside of some faculty skillsets. Concern is that the Write Site may not be equipped to do this.
  - Heard that the graduate school is unable to keep people in the proofer position; concerned that the low pay drives people out, but that this is now resulting in faculty to do this for free.
  - Dr. Kapinus wrote an email with mitigation strategies. Faculty are not convinced that these strategies will be helpful in addressing the added workload for faculty. Messaging matters; communicate compensatory strategies to faculty members and chairs and that they're doing their best. Affects morale.
  - Original idea behind Graduate Reader was addressing errors getting through.
  - Vice Provost Armstrong notes that Dr. Kapinus has benchmarked against other institutions; many institutions have only one staff member who checks for formatting, not for proofreading.
  - Speaker adds: Perhaps we can communicate the intention of the Dean of the Graduate School to assist with this and that she is not trying to overburden faculty.
- Changes to course rotations requiring full review in CIM system — Dr. Shawnda Smith
  - Division head was attempting to change course rotation. Apparently, this required a full review. This has been changed to a modified review. Still a lot of steps. Concern that this is overly laborious for changes that only affect the major program.

- Concern will be forwarded to Gray Scott.
- Listserv policy when recruiting for research (overcompliance) — Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila
  - Concern that emails that involve research regarding DEI are not getting through the listserv. Potential concern about overcompliance with SB17.
  - Dr. Armstrong is moderator of the listserv. She notes that she is not rejecting them, but that she has not received them. Asks students to check in with her to make sure that things have been sent to the correct email; if they have, but she didn't receive them, she will check with Dr. Torres to see what's going on.
  - In the future, the process may change.
- Swag purchases — Dr. Shawnda Smith
  - Concern that approval for swag purchases now has to go through Office of Student Life. Speaker will seek clarification on that process.
- IT Concerns — Dr. Camelia Maier
  - Access to Google CoLab: Restricted for students and faculty, unable to access, but it is necessary. Why?
  - Some emails from and to outside correspondents are not coming through.
  - There are concerns that in order to propose changes to IT policy, there is an IT panel to appeal to, but it is unclear who serves on this committee and if faculty have a role/if there is a process to voice concerns at this panel.
- Access Concerns and Generator Support during campus closures in regard to loss of research data/samples.
  - Who decides which departments or facilities get generator access during power outages? Dr. Armstrong notes that this may have to be decided on department basis, perhaps apply for HEIF funding for generator support for certain labs/facilities.
  - Who decides who has access during campus closures? Dr. Armstrong says: Contact Provost, and they will escalate to high-level committee to decide on access.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Academic Freedom and Responsibility:

Academic Standards Committee:

Administrator Evaluation:

Budget and Planning:

Committee Selection Committee:

Constitution and Bylaws:

Elections:

Faculty Affairs:

Faculty Handbook:



**University Committee Liaison Reports**

Academic Affairs Budget Committee:

Athletic Council:

Curriculum Committee:

Distance Education Advisory Committee:

Faculty Evaluation & Development Committee:

Graduate Council:

Honorary Degree Committee:

Undergraduate Council:

**Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn, Van Erve; Second, Landrum.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm

Wouter van Erve, Secretary

## Executive Summary

In January, IT Solutions maintained operational stability while advancing key infrastructure, service delivery, and enterprise initiatives amid sustained demand and ongoing modernization efforts.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Reduced Service Desk Ticket backlog, improving service responsiveness amid sustained demand.
- Completed critical system and licensing updates to support stability and security.
- Advanced integration and reporting capabilities to strengthen data visibility.
- Expanded project delivery and security capacity through focused staffing and prioritization.

## Team Scorecard

Pillar/Team(s)	Key Accomplishments/Challenges
<b>Support Services</b>	
<b>Service Desk</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Significantly reduced the ticket backlog through coordinated efforts across Support Services, decreasing the queue from over 1,300 tickets to 363. The Service Desk closed 3,120 tickets in January (many carried over from prior months), with an additional 685 tickets resolved by End User Computing, Learning Envir, and HSC teams, while also handling 12,721 phone calls in January.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Increased call and ticket volume driven by holiday device replacements; server issues affecting Self-Service and password reset systems, resulting in MFA and access complications.</p>
<b>End User Computing</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Successfully updated the SPSS license manager and activated new licenses, ensuring uninterrupted access for faculty, staff, and students.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Unplanned reconfiguration of the SPSS license server was required for this year's licensing model, extending resolution time; the environment is now fully stabilized.</p>
<b>Learning Environments</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Made substantial progress on HSC video and related applications, teaming with networking, and support teams, positioning to better support increased Spring semester usage.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Responded to an unanticipated state mandate requiring the removal of specific branded technology items, to isolate, remove, and replace risky components.</p>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Platforms (Data Center, Servers)</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Delivered 16 new servers for Colleague Production; initiated the transition of OCI support from FSO/EA; addressed email and listserv delivery issues; and filled the Systems Administrator position to strengthen operational capacity.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Managed high volume of tickets while operating with staffing vacancies, alongside email delivery issues including impacts from a recent Microsoft 365 outage.</p>
<b>Unified Communications (Network, WiFi, Phones, Firewall)</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Advanced multiple initiatives, including processing high volumes of RingCentral requests, providing one-year Service Desk call records, migrating 51 lines to AudioCodes (113 of 313 total), and progressing SIP phone/trunk orders.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> RingCentral license migration delays tied to contract finalization continue to limit account provisioning, while AudioCodes deployment is pending vendor paperwork required to complete the SIP circuit installation in Denton.</p>
<b>Network</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Installed five new access points in the MCL auditorium, completed improvements to HSC portable camera carts with over 15 cameras fully operational, and onboarded a new Network Engineer scheduled to start February 2.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Continued to support operations with reduced staffing while resolving issues related to vendor-installed systems that were implemented incorrectly.</p>
<b>Enterprise Apps</b>	
<b>Business</b>	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Enabled CommonApp First-Year applications to import into Colleague with correct statuses, types, and restrictions. Advanced Salesforce RFI and Account Create email notifications into testing.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Balancing competing high-priority projects alongside ongoing maintenance and operational support continues to constrain capacity. Teams are frequently pulled into reactive work, limiting the ability to shift toward proactive improvements.</p>

Data Warehouse	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Implemented a Colleague integration to import TSDS (Texas Student Data System) numbers for Dual Credit students, improving data accuracy and compliance across integrated systems; delivered a one-time CAS data extract and reporting solution to support institutional data needs.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Competing project demands and operational workload, including ticket support, limit available resources for proactive data enhancement and optimization.</p>
Integrations	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Implemented a Colleague integration to import TSDS (Texas Student Data System) numbers for Dual Credit students, improving data accuracy and compliance across integrated systems.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Ongoing reactive support requirements and overlapping high-priority initiatives reduce capacity for forward-looking integration enhancements.</p>
Info Security	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Blocked 13.4 million malicious emails during the month, conducted interviews for a new Security Engineer, and successfully transitioned Chris Knorr from Learning Environments into the InfoSec team.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Ongoing Bank Mobile phishing campaigns continue to bypass some controls, requiring additional monitoring and response efforts.</p>
InfoSec Team	
Proj Management	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Expanded PMO capacity through two new Project Manager hires and led to the recovery of multiple at-risk infrastructure and enterprise initiatives, improving portfolio oversight while reducing technical debt, security exposure, and delivery risk.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> End-of-life technologies and legacy dependencies continue to delay closure of select initiatives, while resource constraints and competing priorities have resulted in delayed updates and temporary project holds.</p>
Project Management Office	
Outreach & Engagement	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Published the TWU Email Account and Access Guidelines knowledge base article to standardize account guidance, partnered with IT Security on student-focused phishing awareness efforts, and supported campus engagement through targeted outreach events.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Ongoing email delivery issues have reduced the effectiveness of some outreach efforts, and limited funding for promotional materials constrains support for campus engagement activities.</p>
Business Systems Analysis	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Completed the Business Process Review for Salesforce Education Cloud, supported Project Management across multiple initiatives, and produced several reports and executive presentations.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Limited resources within the BSA team; winter storm slightly impacted cadence</p>
Data Visualization	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Successfully launched the IRDM BI department portal with user-tested reports, improving accessibility, usability, and confidence in institutional reporting; Delivered multiple application set reports and developed the CAS Application Flow Dashboard, providing clearer insight into application trends and applicant progression to support enrollment planning.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Ongoing collaboration with stakeholders is required to finalize CAS data definitions and business logic to ensure consistent and accurate reporting; Delays in obtaining graduate application data from TargetX limit the ability to expand reporting coverage across colleges.</p>
IT Operations	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Responded rapidly to unexpected changes in SAS vendor requirements, ensuring continued campus-wide access without service disruption.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Hewlett Packard's reduced quote validity window (from 30 days to 14 days) introduces workflow pressure across requestors, ITS, and Procurement, requiring accelerated coordination and process adjustments.</p> <p><i>*We are moving Knowledge Base ownership from individual users to groups to improve maintenance and continuity. Group ownership allows shared responsibility for updating or retiring content, keeping KB articles accurate as roles, employees, and teams change.</i></p>
IT Ops	

# TWU IT Project Portfolio & Systems Overview

## Projects In Flight (Current)

Total Projects: 38

Active: 28 projects

Inactive On Deck: 7 projects

On Hold: 3 projects

## Completion Metrics

Projects Above 50% Complete: 11 projects

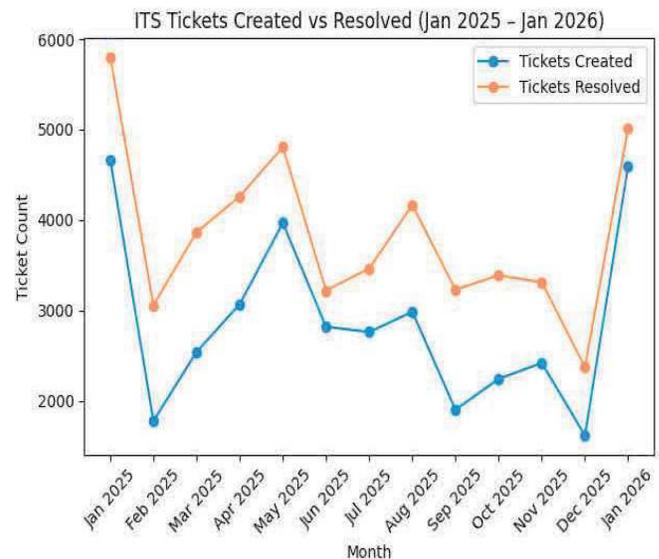
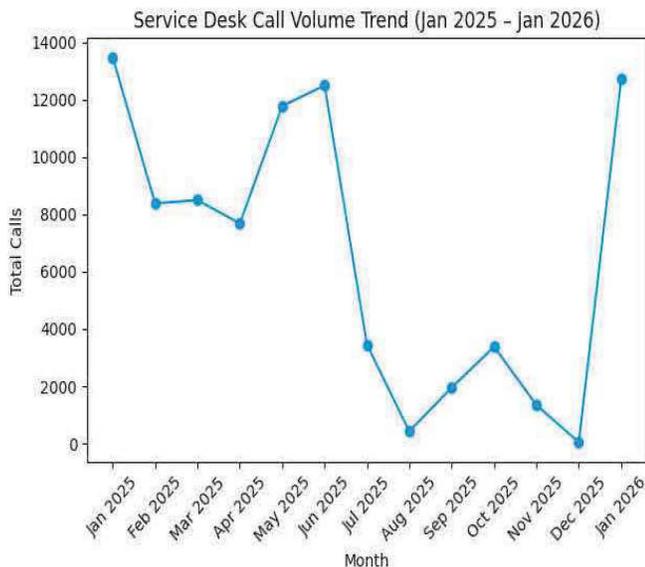
Targeted for Closure 90%+ Complete: 7 projects

Completed: EM Ferrilli Assessment

Business Unit	Projects
ITS	*11
Security	7
Finance & Strategy	4
Enrollment Management	3
Outreach & Engagement	3
Curriculum & Strategic Initiatives	1
Facilities Management	2
International Affairs	1
Academic Affairs	3
Marketing	1
Procurement Services	1
School of Science & Biology	1
Total	38

System	Projects
Oracle	3
Colleague	7
Salesforce	6
Network	6
All Systems	13
Ticketing Sys	3
Total	38

*\*ITS Project Breakdown: Networking-4, Enterprise Apps –2, End User Computing-3, Outreach and Engagement-2*



*IT Solutions entered 2025 with over 1,000 backlogged tickets from December 2024 and has consistently resolved tickets at or above intake, reducing the backlog.*

# Graduate Council Notes

**February 16, 2026**

- I. Approval of the January 21, 2026, meeting minutes—**Approved**
- II. Announcements and Report by Dr. Ruth Johnson, Associate Dean of the Graduate School
  - A. Introduce new graduate school employees-Tanya Vasquez and Laurie Hensel
  - B. **Lacks Academic Progress**
    1. Indicating students who have several SCH and no dissertation. They have been in 6983 and 6993 and still no dissertation. It is costing students 20-30,000 dollars to keep them in these courses.
    2. There should be a program policy for each of your programs that states no longer viable for the program in order to get students to get the dissertation done.
    3. The graduate school does not accept letter grades. Only P, NP, CR
  - C. If a student wants to add a graduate certificate and they are a degree seeking student, then request from the Grad school immediately because it takes time and students can't take courses until they have been approved to be in a certification course. If you have questions, reach out to Ruth.
    1. Jackie wants you to know that you must complete the graduate certificate form in order for the certificate to be applied to their transcrip.
- III. Guest Speaker
  - A. Nancy Chick, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, & Scholarship (The Faculty Commons), Professor of English
    1. We support faculty and future faculty (graduate students) in teaching, service, scholarship.
    2. We can help with creating lessons, activities, instruction.
    3. Graduate students will put together a teaching portfolio and that is something we can help with. We can help faculty with this too.
    4. We support faculty and their programs with peer observation and teaching. Also, supervisor observation.
    5. SoTL—Nancy runs programs on SoTL for faculty and grad students.
    6. Nancy is till learning about the TWU culture and would like to bring some things that she did at Vanderbilt to TWU.
      - a) Panel on “So, you want to be a GTA”
      - b) Individual consultations
      - c) Help with creating and reviewing programs
    7. What are faculty needs?
      - a) On the Faculty Commons, could there be a page for GTAs?

b) How can you leverage textbook and TAA for faculty? We used to have a good presence on campus.

(1) Please watch out for more information about TAA in Faculty Commons next month and every month.

IV. Summary Reports from Standing Committees

A. Executive Committee Chair: Dr. Ann Wheeler, Vice-Chair: Dr. Dayna Averitt

1. No report.

B. Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislariu

1. Update on membership, Dr. Kristin McDaniel is a new member.
2. GC awards for exceptional original scholarships email went out. Please advertise. Deadline is March 9th by 5pm.
3. ORSP Chancellor’s Student Visa Scholar Award—deadline is Feb 26th 5pm.
4. Documents Review:
  - a) Input was given on how to make the GC awards more inclusive, like adding items other than a written thesis or dissertation to be considered. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Pislariu.
  - b) Nomination form doc—there was no input given.

C. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price

1. GC approved the graduate faculty status at TWU pending revisions. We met Feb 4th and we will have a finalized draft and sent it to for a final vote. Dayna Averitt stated we already approved it and it will be on the website next week. We can always update as needed.

D. Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li

1. No proposals today.

E. Membership Committee – Dr. Helen Everts

1. No report. Under new business, we do need approval for the four below.

V. New Business

A. Membership Committee – Dr. Helen Everts Recommendations for Graduate Faculty Status (listed on page 2)--Approved.

VII. Adjournment. 1:47PM

The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on March 18, 2026.

Membership Committee –

- Faculty Recommendations: 3- Full / 0 - Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement

Name	Component	Recommendation
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Friesenhahn, Amy	Political Sci Full	Full
Michael, Jacqueline	Nursing Full	Full
McManamanBridges, Tracy	Nursing	Full
Augurri,	Nursing	Full

**January 21, 2026**

- VI. Approval of the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes—**Approved**
- VII. Announcements and Report by Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Dean of the Graduate School—
  - A. According to 7th day enrollment report, up to 2.9%, 150 students, from SP25. Overall GS enrollment is up and great, and we are retaining students. Looking to SU and FA, enrollment is up a bit—this are based on accepted students. Continue to work hard to recruit and retaining students.
  - B. Financial Aid—Email has been wonky, so some things to discuss.
    - 1. Some programs got higher amount of financial aid in Professional Programs, but this did not affect TWU since we do not have Prof Prog, per Financial Aid.
    - 2. Our tuition needs to stay lower than other schools.
    - 3. Starting July 6th, Plus Loans can't be taken by GS. Please direct students to Financial Aid.
    - 4. July 1st, Lifetime Borrowing Limit will decrease from \$138,000 to \$100,000 for GS who have not borrowed in a graduate degree. We only have about 20 students who have borrowed 100,000 or more.
    - 5. Financial aid webpage has these changes listed.  
<https://twu.edu/finaid/news--announcements/federal-loan-updates-f-or-2026-2027/>
    - 6. GSchool is planning for national student appreciation week, which is recognized around the US. April 6-10th and the GS will do a number of things to reach our online and campus students. We encourage each program to do its own recognition.

- VIII. Announcements and Report by Dr. Ruth Johnson, Associate Dean of the Graduate School
- A. Graduate Catalogue is in process for editing and corrections. Graduate Programs should consider a minor within their programs. This will help getting seats filled. Minors can also get financial aid.
  - B. Welcome to spring 2026 and let me know if I can assist you.
- IX. Guest Speaker
- A. Dr. Gray Scott, Associate Vice Provost of Accreditation
    - 1. Course information review process—32% of courses in CIM have not outcomes listed. These are old courses and if they have not been updated, then they are blank. Outcomes must be created if you are participating in this review process.
      - a) You should have 3 outcomes per class. It may not be everything that you are hoping to teach.
    - 2. AI and LLM Tools—Gray modeled how to use AI to help create outcomes, update syllabi, etc.
    - 3. FAQ page has been created and can be found on
    - 4. Links from Gray:
      - a) [Templates](#)
      - b) [FAQ](#)
      - c) [Gemini](#)
      - d) [Master training document](#) (contains neutral-language guide, SLO guidance, course description guidance, all in one document, useful for training an LLM):
      - e) [Overview of the Course Information Review process](#)
      - f) [A Short Guide to Neutral-Language Framing](#)
- X. V. Summary Reports from Standing Committees
- A. Executive Committee Chair: Dr. Ann Wheeler, Vice-Chair: Dr. Dayna Averitt
    - 1. No report.
  - B. Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislariu
    - 1. Draft for Outstanding and Dissertation Awards. Look at it and give input. We want to give an award for one Master’s and one Doctorate.
  - C. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price
    - 1. Thank the committee for their work on passing the policy on Graduate Work.
  - D. Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li
    - 1. We will be discussing one proposal today.
  - E. Membership Committee – Dr. Helen Everts
    - 1. No report.
- XI. New Business

- A. Membership Committee – Dr. Helen Everts
  - 1. Recommendations for Graduate Faculty Status (listed on page 2)
    - a) These were approved by the committee over break and needs a vote. —Approved
- B. Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Zhen Li
  - 1. New Request - Post-Masters Certificate in Library Administration—Approved
- C. Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislariu
  - 1. Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards
    - a) Again, need input.
    - b) Dr. K wants as many students to be recognized in multiple ways. Funding is being sought and will be secured as soon as input is given.
    - c) Take this doc to your Division and ask for questions and concerns, then let us know.
- D. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price
  - 1. Graduate Assistant policies—Please review.
- XII. Old Business
  - A. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Sharon Wang-Price
    - 1. Revisions to the Graduate Faculty Status policy-This has been revised based on input from last meeting— Approved
- XIII. Adjournment—2:08

The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on **February 18, 2026.**

Membership Committee –

- Faculty Recommendations: 1- Full / 3 - Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement

Name	Component	Recommendation
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Gumienny, Tina	Biology	Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement
Menn, Mindy	Health promotion & kinesiology	Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement
Johnson, Gretchen	OT	Full
Armstrong, Erica	Comm Sci Oral Health	Full with Dissertation Chair Endorsement