

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Special Session

July 17, 2025

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Roll Call

Abbott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acho	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barnett	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beatty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blosser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dillon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Du	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dunlap	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ernst	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fredrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gullion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Immanuel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landrum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lucero Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Miketinas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Night	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Petersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rosa-Dávila	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trujillo-Jenks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Van Erve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Guests:

Faculty

Dr. DiAnna Hynds

Dr. Catherine Mbango

Dr. Rachel Poland

Dr. Alicia Ramirez

Graduate Student

Ms. E'lycia Larry-Lewis

Staff

Ms. Shawna Lemon

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve, R. Fredrickson; second, P. Landrum

Motion passed unanimously

Second Reading:

Proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws to ensure alignment with Senate Bill 37 (SB 37)

Motion to Approve, S. Dillon; second, J. Dice

Discussion:

General

- Clarification is given to the Constitution and Bylaws revisions: everything in black is current; red is as stated in the law; blue is also in the law but is feedback from General Counsel that according to the law is important to include.

Senate proceeds to go through the document line by line and considers the changes.

Advisory Body

- The Senate discusses the meaning of the term "advisory body," specifically in terms of how much governance the Senate is going to have after these changes. It is clarified that TWU is in a better position than most other Texas institutions; other institutions' administrators are not choosing to reconstitute their faculty senates yet; leaving them abolished. Our Senate has

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always been an advisory board, so there is not as much of a paradigm shift for us; the last say is with the Provost and it always has been. Faculty Senates at other institutions used to have more power over curriculum, etc. We retain our presence on governing bodies as we have been. The Chancellor remains committed to shared governance.

Policy Approval

- A senator seeks clarification about policy approval by the Board of Regents. Can we still have votes of no confidence?
 - o Clarification is that yes, we can still have votes of no confidence if we wish; the only change will be that our names will have to be recorded as having voted for or against.
 - o A follow-up question asks whether votes of no confidence are covered by this section? This is up for debate and is not clear at this time.

EIAR Committee

- The Senate discusses the name of the EIAR Standing Committee. There is a proposal to change the name, not the mission or the work of the committee. It is emphasized that the work of the committee will not change.

Senate Speaker proposes vote on the name.

- Several senators voice the sentiment that this feels like complying in advance. It is explained that the name of the committee is the only aspect of the committee's existence that could invite Board of Regents scrutiny; the work is less so. It is therefore potentially seen as wise to keep the committee under a different name in order to continue its work; this sentiment finds resonance with a number of senators.
- Several new names are considered for adoption, including, "Advocacy, Belonging, and Justice;" "Internal Affairs;" and "Faculty Affairs."
- **Motion** to change the name of the EIAR Standing Committee to "Faculty Affairs" by S. Dillon; Second, J. Gullion.
 - o Discussion: None
 - o **Motion passes** unanimously.

Nominating Committee

- It is suggested that in the updated bylaws the Senate's Nominating Committee can be abolished because the officers will be appointed by the Chancellor; nominations will go directly to the Chancellor, and she will make the choice.
- Discussion on whether the Senate can still have elections in the Senate and send the Chancellor suggested names and present the Chancellor with its choice for appointed members. The law makes this impossible to codify in our bylaws, and would potentially create a situation in which elected but not appointed members might feel slighted. The Chancellor has indicated that she will always consult with Senate leadership before appointments.
- **Motion** is made to keep the Nominating Committee and forward its selections to the Chancellor. D. Miketinas; Second, R. Lucero-Jones.
 - o Discussion:

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- In the discussion that follows, Senators attempt to balance compliance with the law and maintaining influence for the Senate, distinguishing between formal and informal processes.
 - **Vote on the motion** to keep the nominating committee to advance to Senate's choice for officers for her consideration.
 - Ayes: 7
 - Nays: 15
 - Abstain: 2
 - The nays have the vote, the motion does not pass.
- The Senate discusses the phrasing of Article IV, and it is clarified that Article IV implies that the Chancellor will take her appointments from the already-elected senators.

Terms of Office

- Under the new regime, elected members of Senate serve two-year terms and then have to be off Senate for two years before being able to serve again. Terms will run from June 1st-May31st the following year.
- It is noted that there will be a dilution of elected members by making the Chancellor appointees part of the regular slate, as opposed to "on top of." This raises further concerns about institutional memory, and the Senate briefly discusses creating the office of Senate Historian, though no action is taken at the time.
- The Bylaws currently contain the number 31 for the number of Senators; it is suggested to take this number out in anticipation of change in the number of Senators in the future and making that process easier if the Senate sees fit to do so. This suggestion is adopted by acclamation.
- The process for running off Senate is explained further, with the note that this will be discussed in greater detail at the first General Session of the Senate in the new academic year.

Term Limits

- According to TWU General Counsel, the new law does not require term limits for Senate officers.
- No further action is undertaken at this time on the topic of officer term limits; it is suggested this should be discussed during a regular Senate meeting.
- Term limits for officers and TCFS representatives were discussed. TCFS representatives are appointed for a single three-year term. Officers will not have term limits recorded in the Bylaws; they will be appointed for a one-year term.

The discussion of the new Constitution and Bylaws is concluded.

Motion to accept the revised Constitution and Bylaws with the amendments made: J. Blosser; second, R. Fredrickson.

- **Motion passes** unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn, W. van Erve; second, S. Dillon

Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm

Wouter van Erve, Secretary

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