



# Faculty Senate General Session

Friday, March 6, 2026

LIB 101 and Zoom

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

## Roll Call

Akinleye x	Acho x	Barnett	Beatty x	Beins x
Blosser x	Burke x	Chen x	Dice x	Dillon x
Du x	Dunlap x	Elkins x	Fredrickson x	Gates x
Gullion x	Immanuel x	Landrum x	Lucero Jones x	Maier x
Miketinas x	Mooney x	Night	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. Danhui Wang, substitute for Dr. Xiaofen Du (Nutrition and Food Sciences)

## Recognition of Guests

Faculty: Dr. Rigoberto Delgado, Dr. Shalawn Harris, Dr. Catherine Mbango, Dr. Junalyn Navarra-Madsen

Staff: Mr. Scott Martin

## Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve, Elkins; second, Dillon

0 abstained; motion passed.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve, Van Erve; second, Maier

Motion passed unanimously.

**Chief Information Officer** – Dr. Henry Torres

- **Highlights from IT Performance Snapshot**

- Enrollment management: focus of TWU has been on enrollment management. IT Solutions has integrated Common App and ApplyTexas.
- Upgrades: Upgraded our old analog phone PBX. Is behind the scenes, focuses on contacting emergency departments, replacing old equipment to improve reliability.

- Expanding use of AI internally: Faculty will get access to some of the data dashboards that IT solutions has been developing. Working on making data easily digestible.
- Improvement in response time: Forwarding calls immediately to appropriate department. Also trying to keep service desk up to date on current issues with IT so they can inform people calling in with problems.
- Adobe Acrobat: Still a problem, moving towards Foxit because it's a cheaper solution with the same functionality. Faculty can email JT Langford or Henry Torres if they want to begin testing Foxit.
- Data on problem resolution: Better data management in IT so they have better visibility on making sure that they're solving problems in time.
  
- **Faculty Concerns**
  - Faculty raise issues with email spam filters preventing them from communicating with collaborators outside of the university, as well as response from IT to concerns about these problems. Faculty in the sciences want access to Google Collab. Dr. Torres highlights that Collab was determined to pose security risks and therefore shut off; it's now being turned on according to a case-by-case basis, as needed in classes that use it, and disabled after the semester.
  - Faculty in Houston report that they're also experiencing email issues with trusted correspondents having those emails end up in Spam.
  - Faculty are frustrated with the unpredictability of the email issues; it's hard to know whose emails aren't arriving unless the correspondents on the other end report that to you somehow.
  - Continuing reports of issues with the all-faculty email listserv.
  - Problems with Macs updating continuously in the middle of meetings. Faculty ask if it's possible to have a facility on campus where there is a computer that can be used in case of emergency.
  - IT solutions, with regards to a lot of these IT issues, tries to recreate issues to accurately diagnose them. Dr. Torres will follow up with affected faculty members today. These appear to be individual issues, but no current global issues have been identified.
  
- **TWU Business Intelligence**
  - Dashboards that have been designed by IT in conjunction with relevant departments to visualize data and make it easier to see where policy interventions might be most effective. Dr. Torres shows the enrollment management dashboard.
  - Working with departments to ask them what they need, and IT will help them develop dashboards and process data that is useful for the departments. IT can also add your own departments' data to the mix.

- Designed to promote interactions between departments to collaborate and address issues together creatively.

#### **Provost Forum – Dr. Angela Bauer**

- **Business items:**

- Three ongoing searches:
  - Dean of Undergraduate Studies; campus visits happening shortly after spring break. Dr. Gray Scott is leading this search.
  - Chief AI Strategist; currently reviewing files, and top candidates will be selected shortly. Dr. Lee Brown is heading up this search.
  - Director for new center for workforce readiness. Funded by JNIWL Institute. Campus visits are happening during spring break; participation possible via Zoom and through recordings afterwards.
- Curriculum review process progress: monumental task; really confident going into Board of Regents meeting to share about the work that's been done. Significant workload involved; those involved with college-level review committees are getting a stipend.
- General Education review committee: SB37 puts Board of Regents in charge of overseeing General Education.
  - Includes core curriculum, mandated by the state. We include a MWGS requirement, UNIV requirement, and a couple others.
  - Board of Regents has had extensive discussions about how they want this review process to go.
  - Review is going to have to happen every 5 years; the first review is January of 2027. Every college has one representative, and CAS has two. Dr. Bauer is heading up the committee, Dean of Undergraduate Studies is serving ex officio, as is Nancy Chick. Industry representatives and community members are serving as well. Board of Regents wanted to target Healthcare and Industry. Excited to have participation from Toyota.
  - Focus is on workforce readiness. How are we incorporating standards coming from the THECB? No individual course reviews, but may sample certain individual courses to see what is happening there.
  - Faculty suggests to be aware of the process at the THECB looking into reviewing the requirements for the core.

- **Process Engineer**

- Academic Affairs is working with them and have chosen to focus on the hiring process. Found several avenues for potential efficiencies. Will take some time to implement, since it requires changes in Oracle and other electronic processes. Making inroads, especially in reducing the levels of approval required and also

streamlining the hiring process of non-budgeted (adjunct) positions. HR is working on a rapid rehire process, for example.

- Faculty ask if a process that can be on the engineer's radar is the guest speaker process.

- **Efficiencies being Proposed in Academic Affairs**

- Provost recognizes that things may get lost in the shuffle of human communication.
- Wants to clear up misconceptions about what she's proposing. A lot of choices involved; clever ways of going about course scheduling or cohorting students.
- Mentioned in a budget forum the idea to increase course minimums; that sort of got a life of its own. Provost said that she heard it interpreted that she doesn't receive feedback on workload, but she does. She meant to say she didn't hear anything negative about increasing course minimums.
- Marching orders were to take ideas back to their faculty, discuss with faculty what makes sense for them. No mandates for implementation were imposed. These are all ideas that if implemented could help the university to be able to implement small merit raises.
  - Example: This year AA has been more stringent about course minimums, allowing the university to save approximately \$723k in adjunct expenditures.
  - For a 1% merit increase, the university would need \$1.4 million for faculty and staff across the board; but minus library and nursing, \$950k.
  - Market adjustment for staff: ~\$2.4 million; market adjustment for all faculty: \$3.0 million.
  - Staff below paygrade, to bring them up: about \$450k.
- The Provost highlights that this is a search for efficiencies. Sees this as a potluck, or charcuterie board: a lot of small efforts can contribute to a larger whole.
- Potential contributions:
  - Raising minimum enrollment expectations for lower-level undergrad courses;
  - Larger lecture sections, where appropriate;
  - Cohorting in graduate programs;
  - Reducing the number of elective offerings in a semester;
  - Rethinking the number of concentrations/emphases in a degree.
- Recognizes that some areas are maxed out at this point in time; there may not be any efficiency gains to be made there but elsewhere the Provost sees room for improvement.

### **Faculty Concerns**

- Faculty ask if we're also looking at support functions; are we examining ways to improve efficiency in support functions. Provost says that yes, the university is looking at that as well.

- Faculty want clarification on the additional sources of funding for Nursing that allowed them to independently give out raises. That funding is coming from Legislative Appropriations Requests and partially from recruitment efficiencies for online programs partnering with an outside vendor.
- Provost is less focused on programs with courses that are close to the enrollment level that she's hoping for, rather focused on programs that are enrolling 7-8 students in graduate classes. No one-size-fits-all approach.
- Faculty appreciate the emphasis on collaboration, but receive this on the ground level as edicts and unilateral decisions. Provost talked to Deans and asked them to talk to leadership to make sure that these things are not imposed inside academic components as mandates.

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

##### **Strategic Planning Process for Faculty Commons**

- Next month: update on strategic planning process for Faculty Commons. Looking for ideas and wishes, needs for support. Coming back next month with list of things Faculty Commons is looking at implementing.

##### **Faculty Concerns**

- Faculty indicate that PRC will send Dr. Armstrong feedback about Watermark.
- Some faculty report issues with notifications via email.
- Faculty report issue with dual roles in Watermark.

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

##### **Faculty Survey on Workload**

- Faculty Senate officers will be meeting with Hanover to talk about the survey. Will provide update to Senate after the fact.
- Senate is conducting Senate elections at this time. Deadline for officer nominations will be the April meeting. Waiting for election results; those who are elected can also be nominated to leadership positions. Documents will have to be sent to the Chancellor.
- Also electing a new TCFS representative because Shawnda Smith won't be serving on Senate next year.

##### **Unfinished Business**

- **Second Readings**

- Constitution and Bylaws Amendment – Dr. Aaron Elkins
- Motion to amend the Bylaws as recommended: Dillon; second, Gullion. No abstentions or nays, motion is adopted.

### **New Business**

Senators should comment on the individual policies with the feedback they receive from their constituents.

- **First Readings**

- URP Regents' Policy C.30010 Shared Governance Policy
- URP 01.290 International Travel
- URP 02.265 Faculty-Led Education Abroad
- URP 02.445 Proposal Submission
- URP 02.455 Time and Effort Reporting for Federally-Funded Projects and Projects with Cost Share
- URP 02.460 Cost Sharing on Funded Projects
- URP 02.465 Subrecipient Monitoring

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

AABAC meeting has been postponed to March 18; report will follow after that.

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

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

### **Project Thrive**

- Program Viability — Suzanna Dillon
  - Seven remaining metrics to finalize. Working in tandem with a rollout document. If comments and concerns have come up, they're tracking them. Also following up with administrators in regard to the data that administrators find necessary to have.
- Budget Transparency — Jeff Williams
  - First subgroup launched survey and has data; working to aggregate and present results.
  - Second subgroup also has their deliverables ready. Will make presentation to committee available; talked about pulling institutional data from Oracle Cloud to make them more accessible and consistent across the board.

### **New Faculty Concerns**

- **Faculty Workloads** — Suzanna Dillon
  - Developmental support and retention efforts: invisible and not accounted for in workload.

- Labor falls disproportionately on faculty who comply, no action regarding faculty who don't comply.
- Retention labor in 1000-2000 level classes is not accounted for.
- Increased labor around intensive writing courses is also not reflected.
- Professional Development re: updating courses for accessibility. While PD opportunities are available, there is no additional compensation or workload accounting available for the training it takes and the work required to increase accessibility and other mandated improvements.
- Faculty is broadly concerned that some faculty will not be allowed research-reassigned time at the college level.
- Faculty note that our promotion and tenure criteria reflect demands in teaching, research, and service, and that it's important to align our workload policy and workload reporting with those, since the focus of our workload reporting and policy seems to be primarily focused on teaching right now.
- Faculty with more developed research have more of a shot at these research releases. Senior faculty are often the only ones being able to take leadership roles, but they frequently can't take the additional research releases (or to the full extent) because of time constraints.
- Faculty note a lack of real criteria for research and service releases; ask for more transparency. Perhaps job descriptions or a description of role and responsibilities can play a role here.
- **Concern with Student Mental Health Event** — Angela Mooney
  - Student had panic attack in classroom, and faculty had a hard time responding to this issue; not sure where to go or what to do. Student did not want faculty member to call 9-1-1.
    - Provost notes that she checked with Dr. Mendez-Grant: always possible to call Health Services and walk the student over. If the student is not ambulatory, call Campus Police. Provost is considering this as an opportunity for training; will follow up.

## **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, Dillon

Meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm

Wouter van Erve, Secretary



### Executive Summary

In February, IT Solutions sustained operational stability while advancing critical enterprise initiatives across enrollment systems, infrastructure modernization, data strategy, and security operations despite continued capacity constraints and cross-system dependencies.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Stabilized Common App transfer integration and advanced the Colleague Oracle → SQL Server migration toward User Acceptance Testing (UAT) readiness.
- Progressed life-safety and communications modernization across campuses – moving from old PBX system to new Audio Codes.
- Expanded AI proof-of-concept and data insight capabilities to strengthen reporting and decision support.
- Formalized Knowledge Base governance and strengthened audit remediation coordination.

### Team Scorecard

Pillar	Team(s)	Key Accomplishments/Challenges/Metrics
Support Services	Service Desk	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Successfully mitigated the sudden vulnerability in TechChat, the Remote Access TSD Tool, ensuring continued system security and preventing potential disruptions to remote access services</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> The TechChat upgrade encountered unforeseen vendor-related issues, resulting in several days of service instability before resolution</p> <p>&gt;<b>Metric:</b> 2189 Tickets completed, Took 4565 calls</p>
	End User Computing	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Responded to ASSC flooding by installing alternative LabScribe access on more than 20 BHL computers and developing personal installation instructions for students and TSD distribution, ensuring continued academic continuity</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> An increase in Adobe Acrobat-related issues required full uninstall and reinstall remediation, extending resolution time</p>
	Learning Environments	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Collaborated with Networking and AV vendors to fully prepare the Health Sciences Center for its ribbon-cutting ceremony, ensuring all technical requirements were met</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> Although flooding caused limited A/V damage, coordination with FMC was required to disconnect and remove equipment to allow for wall repairs and restoration</p>
Infrastructure	Platforms ( <i>Data Center, Servers</i> )	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Resolved prior email issues, achieved full staffing on the Platforms team, initiated nine physical server replacements targeted for completion by March, and began planning for 40 server upgrades to be completed by December 2026</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> Balancing high ticket volume alongside active infrastructure projects continues to strain capacity, compounded by delays in storage reclamation due to Google bulk-delete retention policies (30–60 days)</p>
	Unified Communications ( <i>Network, WiFi, Phones, Firewall</i> )	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Created and activated a new RingCentral sub-department, migrated 207 Extensions to RingEX licenses (freeing 80 licenses) and completed migration of 53 Houston PBX lines to AudioCodes. Closed 68 Ring Cntrl tickets</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> (ongoing from Jan) - RingCentral license migration remains dependent on invoice resolution, and AudioCodes deployment in Denton is pending SIP circuit installation and vendor paperwork completion</p>

	Network	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Advanced planning to replace 201 end-of-life network switches by October 2027, initiated a network assessment to identify optimization opportunities. Installed two switches, replaced two switches, and deployed nine WAPs</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Headcount shortages continue to delay certain service delivery timelines</p>
<b>Enterprise Apps, Data and AI</b>	Architecture, Design & AI Solutions	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Developed an on-prem AI proof of concept (RAG) using SQL Server 2025, Ollama, and Nomic text embeddings; transferred Oracle environment clone responsibilities to Platforms; and initiated Optimal IdM test account setup and product exploration</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Resources remain stretched across multiple high-priority initiatives.</p>
	Business Applications	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Migrated 4 of 25 RFI forms from FormAssembly to native Salesforce production with remaining forms on track; completed the decision letter import solution for historical lookup in OnBase; validated Salesforce SSO integration for Optimal IdM POC; and launched the TWU Scheduled Emailer for automated account notifications and alerts</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Multiple high priority projects in flight</p>
	Data Warehouse, Integrations & Data Management Office	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Created the Data Management Office roadmap; automated the Nursing (CAS) data pull for reporting; and developed an AI Insights section within the Applicant Portfolio dashboard to enhance leadership visibility into enrollment trends.</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Multiple high priority projects in flight</p>
	Oracle Cloud	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Rolled out the “TWU Employee ICP” role to all active employees in production, identified a solution to segregate BIP report and data model access, and resolved an auto-provisioning issue impacting new users</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Limited experienced OCI administrative capacity</p>
	Student Applications	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Successfully imported Common App transfer applications into Colleague with payment capture functionality operational; advanced the Colleague SQL migration (data mart ready for testing and SQL cluster ready); and delivered Stellic data extracts</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Multiple high priority projects in flight</p>
<b>Information Security</b>	Student Applications	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Partnered with ITS PMO to formalize audit remediation oversight while maintaining audit finding management responsibilities. Blocked 9.9 million malicious emails during February</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Compromised email incidents resulting in fraudulent bank account change attempts required coordinated response efforts across ITS, InfoSec, and Oracle teams</p>
<b>Project Management</b>	Project Management	<p><b>&gt;Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Coordinated to help stabilize the Common App transfer integration by resolving critical defects (SSN correction, payment integration in Test, and SDS automation) while advancing the Colleague Oracle → SQL Server migration (Test Migration at 93%, Application Development at 85%) with functional areas entering UAT</p> <p><b>&gt;Challenge:</b> Tight interdependencies across core systems increase coordination overhead and risk of cascading delays, while shared technical resources across multiple high-complexity initiatives create sequencing constraints in development and testing</p>

	Outreach & Engagement	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Launched a comprehensive audit of 732 ITS Knowledge Base articles, established documented group ownership, and implemented a structured cross-departmental review process to improve accountability and long-term governance</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> Oracle Cloud security role processes lack consistent documentation and alignment, creating workflow inefficiencies, while concurrent initiatives continue to strain team capacity, limiting our ability to expand outreach and training without impacting core operations</p>
	Business Systems Analysis	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Finalized the Enrollment Management Salesforce Education Marketing Cloud BPR and presentation while continuing structured PMO project support</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> A meeting-heavy schedule during the latter half of the month limited available time for deep analysis, reporting, and professional development</p>
<b>IT Operations</b>	IT Ops	<p>&gt;<b>Accomplishment-Focus:</b> Partnered cross-campus with Houston ITS and the Library to deploy a laptop kiosk for Houston student use</p> <p>&gt;<b>Challenge:</b> Initial setup of the TDX email monitor for the new CSI application required extended configuration due to Microsoft security requirements; documentation has now been gathered to streamline future implementations</p>

## TWU IT Project Portfolio & Systems Overview – February 2026

### Projects In Flight (Current)

Total Projects: 34  
 Active: 26 projects  
 Inactive On Deck: 7 projects  
 On Hold: 1 project

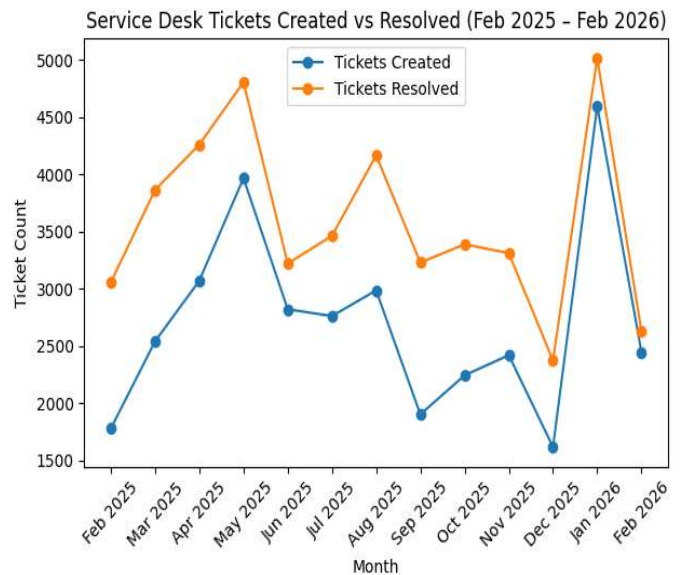
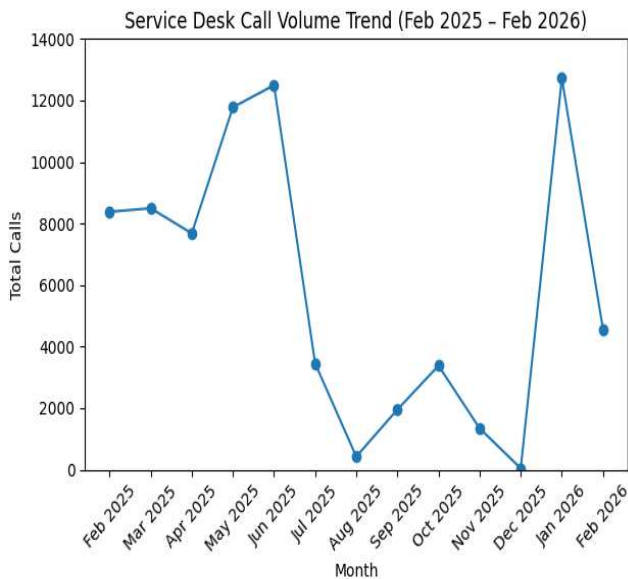
### Completion Metrics

Projects Above 50% Complete: 14 projects  
 Targeted for Closure 90%+ Complete: 7 projects  
 Completed: (Pending) Windows Server Upgrade

Business Unit	Projects
ITS	*11
Security	7
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

System	Projects
Colleague	7
Salesforce	6
Network	6
All Systems	12
Ticketing Sys	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

*\*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.*

## Notes

- Tabitha Morton met with an appointed BOR Chairman Albritton at Texas A&M (alarming answers to questions asked about academic freedom)
  - It was not a good interaction regarding academic freedom and the Regent stated that people send their students to A&M for a republican education (not a conservative education)
  - Academic freedom is a myth made by liberal professors and not a part of TAMUa core values
  - There will be no transgender “indoctrination” discussion in classes
  - Nothing can be talked about that makes a student feel embarrassed or ashamed
  - A&M will only be investing in the universities in the system that target technology and the universities that have the potential to go R1 will be receiving the majority of the funding (limited for Central Texas, Texarkana, Kingsville, and West Texas since they will never be R1)
  - Regional institutions should only offer classes that fill the economic needs of their region
  - A&M will follow Republican policies and laws and the Republican intent of the policies. (not conservative)
  - All decision making will go through BOR that deal with politics
  - Should avoid all topics that challenge Republican ideology
  - He is visiting other campuses and saying similar things (this was at his visit at one of the system HBCUs)
- Concerns across all universities present at the meeting:
  - SB 37 reshaping governance and curriculum statewide
  - Course audits and content reviews underway or anticipated
  - Widespread anticipatory syllabus modification
  - Shift from deliberative governance to advisory compliance structures
  - AI governance emerging but inconsistent
- UT System does not have a senate at any of the universities in the system or in the system overall
- TWU is ahead of the pack with regard to our established Senate and the work we have done with neutral language in course descriptions and SLOs.
- In general, it seems that TWU has a supportive administration compared to other systems and universities.

# Graduate Council Notes

March 6, 2026

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 still 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
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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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