

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate General Session
Friday, November 7, 2025
LIB 101 and Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call

Akinleye x	Acho x	Barnett x	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 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

Recognition of Guests

Faculty: Dr. Amanda Hurlbut, Dr. Catherine Mbango, Dr. Junalyn Navarra-Madsen

Staff: Ms. Stephany Compton, Mr. Scott Martin

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve, Petersen; second, Blosser

0 abstained; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve, Dillon; second, Gates

0 abstained; motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

URP 01.200: Speech, Expression, and Assembly — Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life

- Regent Policy B.20005: Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy
 - Approved by Board of Regents at August 2025 Board Meeting.
 - Aligned with SB 2972, which amends TEC.
- Revised URP 01.200.
- Designate TWU Common Outdoor Areas as “limited public forums”, rolling back SB 18 from 2018.
 - There are some additional statutory requirements, such as prohibition to use amplification devices during class hours; engaging in expressive activities during the last two weeks of the semester: camping on campus; wearing a disguise or concealing identity (wearing masks); lowering a flag (Texas or US); have to show identification to prove that speakers are part of the TWU community upon request.
 - These statutory requirements are all reflected in the new policy.

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- Alumni are not counted as part of the TWU community.
- This would not affect faculty in classrooms using microphones. Only use of amplification disturbing campus proceedings.

SB37 Broader Considerations — Wonny Lervisit, General Counsel

- Faculty Senate section went into effect September 1, 2025. The remainder will go into effect January 1, 2026.
- Mandates Core Curriculum Review every five years under the authority of the Board of Regents, certify compliance to THECB.
 - Ensure that core courses are:
 - Foundational and fundamental.
 - Prepare student for civic and professional life.
 - Equip students for participation in workforce and betterment of society.
 - Ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.
 - Have to consider potential costs curriculum imposes on students.
 - May appoint a committee to assist with review.
- Institutions have to submit to Board of Regents annually an update regarding core curriculum changes; Board of Regents can overrule.
- THECB shall establish a General Education Advisory Committee.
- Minor Degrees and Certificate Programs Review.
 - Develop process for reviewing all minors and certificate programs with low enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination.
 - Criteria for review must include industry data to support workforce demand.
 - Programs less than 5 years old are exempt.
 - Board of Regents gets to approve/deny any removal or consolidation of programs.
- Shared Governance (Texas Education code section 51.3523)
 - Shared Governance can't be used to diminish authority of the Board of Regents to make decisions in the best interest of the institution, students, and taxpayers.
 - Shared governance can't obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional reforms to advance political or ideological viewpoints. Necessary institutional reforms can be defined by the state; political or ideological viewpoints is not further defined by the Legislature, and the General Counsel is currently not sure what it means or how it is interpreted.
- Specific requirements for Faculty Senates.
 - Advisory only
 - TWU Faculty Senate has always been an advisory board, and has always represented the faculty. Through membership selection the Senate represents the faculty. It's not the *only* way faculty are represented (this may also happen in other committees), but Faculty Senate represents the entirety of the faculty.
 - Represent the entire faculty of the institution.
- Institutional Governance
 - Expands role of Board of Regents;
 - Board of Regents training requirements;
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- Responsibility of President or Chief Executive in evaluating annually VPs, Provost, Deans, similar leadership positions. Reports to Board of Regents.
- Grievances: Only Chancellor/President, Provost or designee may be involved in decisions regarding a faculty grievance or the faculty discipline process.
- Faculty who are not in an administrative position may not have final decision-making authority on the hiring of an individual for any faculty or administrative position.
- Creation of new THECB Ombudsman office, appointed by Governor.
 - Serves as intermediary between legislature and public and institutions of higher education. Answers questions from legislature and public regarding the obligations of an institution to students, faculty, employees, and the public.
 - Tasked with investigating complaints from students, faculty, staff re: violations of specific legislation:
 - Gen Ed curriculum review
 - Faculty Senates
 - Responsibility of Chancellor re: annual reviews
 - Grievances, Hiring, and Discipline Decision-Making authority
 - Diversity initiatives (SB 17)
- Next steps for TWU include making sure that policies and processes align. Some of these are on the agenda for the next Board of Regent's meeting agenda.
- Related question about the General Education Council that was conceived last year: Will that include membership from the Faculty Senate? This committee overlaps with the requirements of SB37. Senate is advocating for having a seat at the table in the General Education committee. Provost highlights a commitment to engage with faculty throughout the process of revising the Core in the form of forums, focus groups, etc.
- Chancellor commits to shared governance within the guidelines.

IT Solutions — Dr. Henry Torres, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

- Technology Debt on campus: we have old software and hardware that needs updating, revising, changing.
- Focused on improving communication and ability to resolve issues.
- See also the IT performance snapshot handout.
- Open to recommendations from faculty.
- Questions about the Macs in the Fine Arts Building. Most of the Macs have been delivered to Fine Arts.
- Problems with not receiving responses from certain correspondents; Torres will look into that with faculty members.
- Retired emeritus faculty and access to TWU email is complicated; ServiceDesk will reach out to these faculty to make sure their systems are up to date so they can log in.
- Risk Assessment process is clunky and sometimes needs to be repeated quite often; IT Services is working on streamlining these processes.
- Students from Computer Science and Business working as student workers with IT services. Doing so on all three campuses.
- TWU has signed on to Eduroam.

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Provost's Forum — Dr. Angela Bauer

- Going to postpone proposing General Education Council membership. Asking instead to delegate authority to Chancellor and Provost. Meanwhile holding out for more guidance from the Coordinating Board.
- THECB possibly considering changing the hours requirements for History and Political Science. Will continue to monitor this.
- Changes to faculty search committees. Making sure we get the right people on the search committee. Avoiding conflicts of interest. Need to ensure we reaffirm this in the process. HR is working to revise the statement of confidentiality and broaden the scope to include conflicts of interest.
- Academic Affairs Budget: there will be another Budget Forum on November 21 at 10:00 AM in ACT 301. The forum will be recorded. This forum will focus on the impact of Student Credit Hour (SCH) generation and the ability to generate revenue in our programs. Low enrollment has impact; considering raising minimum enrollment expectations; going to do a deeper dive into SCH generation and ways we can enhance generation, reduce spending on adjuncts and welcomes feedback and other ideas. Two more forums are slated for Spring semester. Recording will be distributed on request, email Dr. Erika Armstrong for access.
- Project Thrive working groups are busy, can expect updates from Faculty Senate representatives.
- Collaboration between Academic Affairs and Jane Nelson Institute of Women's Leadership (JNIWL). Been looking for ways to collaborate and synergy between institute's goals and academic affairs. Previously, JNIWL had a center for Student Leadership, will be reimagined and now be called the Center for Leadership Research and Workforce Readiness. Institute wanted to strengthen that; resulted in a broader discussion. Found that leadership skills are basic workforce readiness skills. These skills are a hot topic at the moment, certainly in the State of Texas. Feedback from employers on what they see in job applicants; looking for professionalism, ability to receive feedback, AI readiness; themes across the board. The collaboration with JNIWL would manifest as funding from the institute for initiatives by faculty to improve workforce readiness skills. There is funding to hire a director (will have a pedagogy background). The new Center will focus on providing funding for faculty-led initiatives. On target to open the center by Fall of 2026, possible to try to get this rolling by spring.
- Course tagging: going to remove course tags, instead move to changing/updating course descriptions. Proposing a streamlined process to update course descriptions and student learning outcomes. There would be specific college-level committees that involve faculty to assist with updating these; opportunity for faculty to be involved if they want deeper engagement. Highlights AAUP academic freedom and the rights of faculty members as subject matter experts. This is also about teaching student how to think about freedom of learning. Chancellor weighs in: thinking of this as part of our mission as educators, selling ideas and attempting to engage students with perspectives they may be unfamiliar with. Senators raise questions about how to engage with students who seem resistant to perspectives that are not their own. Senators express concern about reviewing course descriptions and the potential for watering down course content. Provost underlines that this is not the intent; some course descriptions have not been updated since the 1990s. Looking for descriptions to accurately reflect what is being taught, not the other way around. Questions arise about the process: faculty (departments) initiate the review process, then it goes to the expedited college-level review committee, and onward from there for approval.

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Vice Provost Faculty Affairs — Dr. Erika Armstrong

- Apps being included in Canvas: Distance Education Advisory committee will advise on apps being included in Canvas. Agreed to adopt an opt-in process as opposed to an opt-out process going forward.
- Administrative support (from students) is available to help transfer your CV into Watermark.
- Faculty Development Grants and Leaves applications are open. They are due this month.
- Performance reviews are going through Watermark this semester, no hiccups observed as of yet.
- There will be a Faculty Social in Houston at Pit BBQ for a Faculty Social and trivia, on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Speaker Report — Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila

- We need a new Faculty Senate liaison for Athletic Council for next semester. They meet 4 times a year; they will meet twice more in the Spring. Dr. Jessica Gullion will be the new Athletic Council representative; will receive an appointment letter from Christopher Johnson.

Unfinished Business: Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila

- **Reports on the 2026-27 Senate Membership Changeover**
 - College of Arts & Sciences – Dr. Jacob Blosser
 - Dr. Blosser, Dr. Gullion, Dr. Smith, Dr. Rosa-Dávila, and Dr. Van Erve will roll off.
 - MAK College of Business and Entrepreneurship – (Not Applicable)
 - College of Health Sciences – Dr. Suzanna Dillon
 - Dr. Barnett, Dr. Dice, and Dr. Miketinas will roll off.
 - College of Nursing – Prof. Gayle Night
 - Dr. Immanuel, Prof. Night, and Dr. Landrum will be rolling off.
 - College of Professional Education – Dr. Aaron Elkins
 - Dr. Lucero Jones and Dr. Elkins will be rolling off.

For those senators who will be staying on, they will be working with Dr. Armstrong on the task force that will review the Hanover study to see if the distinct teaching and research tracks are something we would like to pursue. Prof. Sheli Petersen, Prof. Alisa Woods, Dr. Dan Chen, Dr. Amy Burke, Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Dr. Rebecca Frederickson, Dr. Angela Mooney, Dr. Jake Blosser, Dr. Camelia Maier have volunteered to participate.

- **Second Readings:** Dr. Emarely Rosa-Dávila
 - URP 01.200 Speech, Expression, and Assembly
 - Remarks regarding spelling and grammatical errors; some remarks with regards to handguns. Comments highlight inconsistencies and errors in formatting and phrasing.
 - Motion to forward this policy with edits to General Counsel for consideration: Blosser; second, Woods. Motion approved unanimously.
 - (NEW) URP 01.205: Responsible and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence
 - Comments received reflect an appreciation for the policy not being overly imposing, the use of “can” as opposed to “should” is appreciated.
 - Motion to submit comments to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second, Maier. Motion approved unanimously.

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- URP 02.100 Graduate Council
 - Comments with regard to apportionment and one-year versus two-year term limits.
 - Motion to submit comments to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second, Frederickson. Motion approved unanimously.
- URP 02.235 High Stakes Testing
 - No comments received.
 - Motion to submit policy without comments to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second, Gates. Motion approved unanimously.
- URP 02.250 Courses in Shortened Format
 - Questions about wording and process. These are/have been added to the document. Other comments have been received with regards to wording of "comparable" or "same". Should there be more or less wiggle room, or is there a compliance issue that should be addressed?
 - Motion to submit comments to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second, Maier. Motion approved unanimously.
- URP 02.450 Export Controls
 - Comment with regards to asking for permission for personal devices that don't contain institutional content to be onerous/invasion of privacy.
 - Motion to submit comments to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second Van Erve. Motion approved unanimously.
- Regent C.30000 Academic Administration Policy
 - No comments received.
 - Motion to submit policy to Dr. Erika Armstrong for review: Blosser; second Frederickson. Motion approved unanimously.

Speaker Pro Tem Report – Dr. Suzanna Dillon

- Program Viability Committee has approved its framework and guidelines to evaluate programs and provide recommendations for opportunities for improvement.
- Budget Transparency Committee has finished a survey that has been sent to five test respondents. Will go out on Monday, November 10. Committee has reviewed available financial information on Oracle Cloud. Would like to revise the timeline for deliverables from the working group.

Secretary Report – Dr. Wouter Van Erve

- No report.

Report from TCFS Representative – Dr. Shawnda Smith

- No report.

New Faculty Concerns:

- Ongoing unresolved IT issues — **Dr. Camelia Maier**
 - Addressed in report from Mr. Torres.
- Transparency on small grant decisions for student applications (Experiential Learning and Center for Student Research)
 - Would like to see a rubric, or at least feedback for denied applications and recommendations for improvement for future submissions.

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- Federal grant account-keeping
 - Discrepancy between account statements that PIs with federal grants have and ORSP's accounting. Apparently, it's an Oracle issue; Holly Hansen-Thomas encourages faculty to contact her.
- Program Fees account frozen for Language, Culture and Gender Studies. Dr. Erika Armstrong, Provost Bauer will investigate.

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 by acclamation, Dr. Blosser

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Wouter van Erve, Secretary



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Freedom of Speech and Expression

Freedom of Speech and Expression Policies

- **Regent Policy B.20005: Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy**
 - Approved by the Board of Regents at the August 2025 Board meeting.
 - Aligned with Senate Bill 2972, which amended Texas Education Code Section 51.931
- **Revised URP 01.200: Speech, Expression, and Assembly** incorporates those same changes.



Updates

- **Designates TWU common outdoor areas as limited public forums**
 - Open to expressive activities by TWU community members (students, faculty, staff)
- **Statutory Requirements**
 - Use of amplification devices on TWU property during class hours that intimidate others, interfere with TWU campus operations, or interfere with a University employee's or peace officer's lawful performance of duty
 - During the last two weeks of an academic semester or academic term, engaging in expressive activities which materially and substantially disrupt TWU campus functioning (e.g., use of amplification devices, drums and percussive instruments)
 - Camping or erecting tents or other living accommodations on TWU campuses;
 - Wearing a disguise or other means of concealing the wearer's identity with an intent to obstruct the enforcement of TWU rule;
 - Lowering a flag of the United States or flag of the State of Texas flown by TWU with the intent to raise the flag of another nation or a flag representing an organization or group of people;
 - Engaging in expressive activities on campus between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 - Must present identification or proof of campus affiliation if requested by TWU PD or employee.





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Legislative Updates

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SB 37

a. Summary

- a. "Relating to the governance of public institutions of higher education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and certificate programs, a faculty council or senate, training for members of the governing board, and the establishment, powers, and duties of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman"

b. Effective Dates

- i. The Faculty Senate section is effective September 1, 2025.
- ii. All other sections apply January 1, 2026 (which is in effect Sept. 1).



General Education Curriculum

- a. Board of Regents must conduct a comprehensive review General Education Curriculum every 5 years and certify compliance January 1st after each 5-year review.
 - i. Certify compliance to THECB and each standing legislative committee and subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher ed.
- b. Review requirements: Must ensure that the core courses are:
 - i. Must ensure that the core courses are:
 - i. Are foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education;
 - ii. Are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life;
 - iii. Equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and
 - iv. Ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.
 - ii. Must consider the potential costs the curriculum imposes on students
- c. May appoint a committee to assist with review.



General Education Curriculum

- a. Institutions must annually submit to BOR an update regarding any changes to the General Education Curriculum offered.
- b. Board may reserve right to overturn any decision made by the institution regarding any changes to the general education curriculum.



THECB General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee

- a. THECB shall establish a General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee
 - i. Advisory Committee is tasked with reviewing general education curriculum requirements.
 - ii. Committee shall consider methods for determining Gen Ed component courses and condensing number of courses.



Minor Degrees and Certificate Programs Review

- a. University shall develop a process for reviewing all Minor Degree and Certificate Programs to identify programs with low enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination.
- b. Criteria for review must require that programs have industry data to support workforce demand to avoid consolidation or elimination.
- c. Programs less than 5 years old are exempt.
- d. BOR gets to approve/deny any removal or consolidation of programs.



Shared Governance

New Texas Education Code Section 51.3523

Institutions are governed by a principle of shared structured decision-making process in which the governing board of the institution exercises ultimate authority and responsibility for institutional oversight, financial stewardship, and policy implementation, while allowing for appropriate consultation with faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders on matters related to academic policy and institutional operations. The principle of shared governance may not be construed to diminish the authority of the governing board to make final decisions in the best interest of the institution, students, and taxpayers.

Administrators at institutions of higher education must make decisions in a manner that promotes efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness to state priorities, workforce needs, and the institution's institutional mission. Faculty and staff may provide recommendations on academic matters, but that input is only advisory in nature, ensuring that governing boards and institutional leadership retain clear and ultimate decision-making authority. Shared governance structures may not be used to obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing ideological or political agendas.



Faculty Senate or Council

- **New Texas Education Code Section 51.3522** specifies requirements for any faculty senate or council.
 - Advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
 - Represent the entire faculty of the institution of higher education.
- **Regent Policy C.30020** incorporates all the requirements of Section 51.3522 and was approved by the Board of Regents at the August 2025 Board meeting.
- **Texas Education Code Section 51.3523 (Shared Governance)** also applies to Faculty Senate.



Institutional Governance

a. Expands Board's role in governance

- a. Including regarding personnel decisions re university administrators.

b. Additional Board training requirements

- a. Overview of the Legislature, Appropriations, and State Budget
- b. Emphasis on commitment the Board member is making to the institution system, state, and taxpayers

c. Responsibility of President or Chief Executive Office

- a. Conduct annual evaluations of vice president, provost, dean, or similar leadership position overseeing curriculum or student affairs. Reports to Board on any decisions to remove someone from those positions.

d. Grievance, Hiring, and Discipline Decision-Making Authority

- a. Only Chancellor/President, Provost, or their designee may be involved in decision-making regarding review of a faculty grievance or the faculty discipline process.
- b. Faculty who are not in an administrative leadership position may not have final decision-making authority on the hiring of an individual for any faculty or administrative leadership position.



Office of the Ombudsman

Texas Education Code Section 61.031

- Creates new Office of the Ombudsman within THECB.
 - Ombudsman position appointed by Governor.
- Office serve as “intermediary between the legislature and the public and institutions of higher education, including by answering questions from the legislature and the public regarding the obligations of an institution of higher education to students, faculty, employees, and the public.”
- Tasked with investigating complaints from students, faculty, staff re violations of specific legislation:
 - General Education Curriculum Review and THECB General Education Advisory Committee
 - Faculty Council or Senate
 - Responsibility of President or Chief Executive
 - Grievance, Hiring, and Discipline Decision-Making Authority.
 - Diversity Initiatives (SB 17)





Executive Summary

<p>Overall Department Status: Green</p> <p>IT Solutions delivered strong cross-pillar performance in September and October of FY2026, driving infrastructure upgrades, enterprise app deployments, and security enhancements while improving engagement and operational efficiency.</p>	<p>Department-wide KPIs</p> <p>Key achievements include major infrastructure upgrades, successful deployment of enterprise applications, and enhanced security posture through cloud migration. Outreach efforts improved LinkedIn Learning engagement to 65%, while project management helped deliver critical initiatives such as Visitor Management Systems, myTWU Mobile App, and the kick-off to Stellic Advising/Degree Planning software. Operational efficiencies were supported by campus-wide desktop (SCCM) upgrades and streamlined IT internal procurement processes, positioning the department for continued reliability and innovation.</p>
<p>Key Wins:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop (SCCM) system upgrade for compliance and operational growth 2. Visitor Management System implemented at Houston & Dallas campuses 3. Supported the myTWU Mobile App deployment 4. Completed migration of Proofpoint email security filter to cloud platform 5. LinkedIn Learning activation increased to 65% 6. ITS Budget Manager and EM Common App development completed 7. Breckenridge infrastructure project completed 	<p>Important Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Win11 driver and user experienced issues 2. Wifi issues at multiple locations (Ann Stewart, Guillen) 3. Understaffed EntApp team and Service Desk 4. Limited promotional opportunities for IT initiatives 5. Constituent resistance to new workflows during change management 6. Low staff count in InfoSec causing stagnation in security updates and Risk Assessments

Team Scorecard

Pillar	Team(s)	Status	Key Metric (KPI)	Key Accomplishment
Support Services	(Service Desk, EUC, Learning Env)	●	SCCM Upgrade: 100%	Completed SCCM upgrade
Infrastructure	(Platforms, UC, Network)	●	Firewall Install: 100%	Installed new firewall in Denton
Enterprise Apps	(Business, Student, DW, Integrations)	●	App Dev (Budget Mgr/Common App: 100%	Completed internal ITS Budget Manager and Common App development
Outreach & Engagement	(Houston & Dallas Teams)	●	LinkedIn Engagement: 65%	Increased LinkedIn Learning activation to 65%
Information Security	(InfoSec Team)	●	E-Waste Recycling: 1,111 lbs	Recycled 1,111 lbs. e-waste
Project Management	(PMO, BSA Teams)	●	Visitor Mngmt: 100%	Successfully deployed unified guest tracking system, enhancing campus safety, operational control, compliance visibility
IT Operations	(IT Ops)	●	Adobe IDT: 100%	Completed IDT process with Procurement for all requesting departments

Monthly Spotlight: Visitor Management System

- **Challenge:** Improve campus safety and compliance by implementing a unified guest tracking solution across multiple locations.
- **Solution:** Deployed a Visitor Management System at Houston and Dallas campuses, integrating operational controls and compliance visibility into a single platform.
- **Impact:** Enhanced security and streamlined visitor processes, providing real-time tracking and reporting capabilities that support campus safety and operational efficiency.

Guiding principles for the work group has been forwarded to the Provo

Surveys designed to identify what financial information is available and what is needed were distributed to 5 test respondents, with instructions to forward to others in their unit whose input would be useful. Surveys will be distributed on November 10th and due on November 24th.

Group has conducted an initial review of financial and academic information that is available on Oracle Cloud and will continue to work with this information.

Progress report will go to Provost next week and will include suggestions to revise timeline for deliverables.

Faculty Senate: Athletics Council Report

Submitted by Suzanna Dillon

November Athletics Council Meeting held Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Athletics Council Chair Report:

- A “sound”/volume issue arose between the softball music/audio feed and the new Health Science Center (HSC). Activities on the softball field were not only heard but interrupting activities in HSC.
- **Nov. 19th Dean’s Cup game at 6 PM - TWU Basketball vs. South Nazarene.**
 - Attendance per college will be recorded.
 - Unfortunately, Kyle will be in Indianapolis for an conference representing TWU Athletics.

SAAC Update from Carolina Brown

- Civic engagement day/week (Nov 4) - athletes engaged in campus clean-up.
- SAAC Super Region Convention in Denver in November, TWU will have two athletes in attendance.

NCAA DII Proposed Legislation

- Only proposals related to programs at TWU. Vote to be held in January.
 - Women’s Flag Football - proposed to be added to DII.
 - National Collegiate Championship for Stunt proposal for championship effective spring 2027.
 - Eligibility proposal to permit a student athlete to compete in 5 seasons in the first 10 semesters/15 trimesters of enrollment.
 - This would eliminate the need for a waiver (red-shirt, medical waiver, etc.)
 - Essentially, a policy to reduce the need for waivers.
 - Other policies will remain regarding eligibility.
 - This may provide opportunities for athletes to play another year while earning a graduate degree.
 - Only applies to DII (D1 can come play a 5th year), but likely to also be introduced at D1.
 - Championship Administration - in 2026-2027 NCAA shall begin using the NCAA Power Index (rather than the committee of 8) for rankings in team sports. Shifts focus on using the committee’s time to develop equitable brackets.
 - Retroactive athletic student aid proposal - allows DII schools to allocate remaining funds to athlete’s retroactively during an academic year (creates fewer financial aid issues than current policy).
 - Basketball proposal that schools can play their first basketball game starting 17 weeks before the championship. It doesn’t add any more games, just allows more flexibility in planning compared to current policy.

- Soccer seasons may begin with a 4-day climatization period, which will allow a four-day warm-up period to allow players to transition into preseason practice days, and hopefully reduce injuries.
- Softball proposal to designate 4 games for the fall, and retain the 56 games (current limit on the number of annual competitions) for scheduling exclusively in the spring. Note the 56 games excludes the championship season.

Athletic Director Report

- Inductees for the Class of 2026 TWU Athletics Hall of Fame announced (five inductees).
 - Judy Southard, Sarah Steinmetz, Luci Romberg, Jessica Hanna, & Bailey Vrazel
- **Monday, Nov. 10, soccer** plays 1st game in the championship tournament here at home, and if we win, we head to Dallas Baptist. A fan bus will be made available should TWU win on Monday and advance to game at Dallas Baptist.
- **Volleyball plays Thursday, Nov. 6, and Friday, Nov. 7 (Senior Day)** at home. Volleyball Tournament starts after, TWU should be included in the top 8.
- Basketball season begins this weekend on Friday with the Commissioners' Tournament hosted at TWU. The **basketball game on Friday, Nov. 7**, will follow immediately after the volleyball game.
- **Holiday Spectacular** will be on Dec. 7th, Artistic swim, then gymnastics, then Santa visit.

Curriculum Committee Report

Date: 10/24/25 @2 p.m. via Zoom

The committee met for round 1 on the 24th of October 2025, discussed, voted and approved both the new and modified course proposals that were received in the Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) system.

See below:

Professional Education, College

- Education, School
 - Literacy & Language Division
 - Modifications
 - [READ 5963: Capstone: Literacy Research](#) (from: Seminar in Literacy Research)
 - Teacher Education, Division
 - Additions
 - [EDUC 6563: Foundations of Higher Education](#)
 - [EDUC 6573: Social, Academic, and Demographic Characteristics of University Students](#)
 - [EDUC 6583: Higher Education: Research to Practice](#)
 - Library & Information Studies, School
 - Additions
 - [LS 5783: Advanced Library Management](#)
 - [LS 5933: Capstone in Community Information](#)
 - Modifications
 - [LS 5303: Public Librarianship](#) (from: The Public Library)

College of Arts & Sciences

- Arts & Design, School
 - Visual Arts, Division
 - Additions
 - [ART 4623: Advanced Printmaking](#)

- Modifications
 - [ART 3323: Information Design](#) (from: Data Vizualization)
- Social Work, Psychology, & Philosophy, School
 - Social Work, Division
 - Additions
 - [SOWK 5423: Ethics in Social Work Practice](#)
 - Psychology & Philosophy, Division
 - Additions
 - [PSY 5623: Psychology of Substance Abuse & Addiction](#)
 - Modifications
 - [PSY 4113: Breakthroughs in Psychology](#) (from: History and Systems of Psychology)

Merrilee Alexander Kick College of Business and Entrepreneurship

- Additions
 - [ACCT 4563: Accounting Ethics](#)
 - [ACCT 5043: Intermediate Financial Accounting II](#)
 - [ACCT 5173: Advanced Accounting Information Systems](#)
- Modifications
 - [ACCT 5023: Intermediate Financial Accounting I](#) (from: Intermediate Financial Accounting)

College of Nursing

- Modifications
 - [NURS 4952: Reflection on Experience in Nursing](#) (from: Experiential Learning in Nursing)

As academic leadership has responded to recent student complaints, it has become apparent that many course syllabi are no longer aligned with the approved descriptions and outcomes for those courses.

The provost will soon request that each academic component review ALL their undergraduate course titles, descriptions, and outcomes by March 1, 2026, to ensure they reflect current teaching priorities and clearly communicate course themes and content; the goal being to mitigate complaints from students surprised by course content. This will be a large undertaking for our institution to complete in a short time period. Accordingly, the Provost has requested that we streamline the curricular process workflow for each college so that its workflow concludes with a college-level, ad-hoc curricular committee responsible for reviewing and approving modification proposals.

The Curriculum Committee will also review college-approved proposals for potential concerns that the ad-hoc committees might have missed. We can always return to a course to make further changes.

Each college will appoint a review committee with at least one member familiar with guidance on writing learning outcomes, who can review modified courses. If you have SLO development experience, we encourage you to volunteer for your respective college's review committee.

We expect to use a similar approach to revise and review graduate coursework once the undergraduate stage is completed. Some elements of this process, like college-level review and delegation of SLO review, may factor into long-term revisions of the curriculum approval process.

Round 2 meeting is scheduled for December 5th, 2025, at 2pm via zoom.

Submitted by

Christie Acho

Faculty Senate Liaison



**Undergraduate Council Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2025
2:30 PM-4:00 PM**

- I. Welcome to the Undergraduate Council 2025-2026
 - a. Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Brandi Falley: Welcome, I am the Interim Dean of the Undergraduate Studies Office.
- II. Introduction to 2025-2026 Dr. William Benner, Chair & Dr. Aimée Myers, Vice Chair
 - a. Welcome & Call to Order
 - b. Theme: Collaboration
- III. Welcome to New Members – Dr. William Benner, Chair, and Dr. Aimée Myers, Vice Chair
 - a. Dr. Stina Soderling – representing Women's Studies
 - b. Dr. Shiru Lin – representing Life & Physical Science, Biology
 - c. Dr. Jennifer Flanagan – representing the College of Business
 - d. Dr. Jeffrey Williams – representing the College of Nursing
 - e. Dr. Stephanie Woods – representing the Academic Council
 - f. Dr. Ashley Bender – representing Council of Chairs
 - g. Dr. Peggy Landrum – representing Faculty Senate
 - h. Lanika Reyna – student representative
 - i. Fyona Woldu – student representative
- IV. Review and approval of April Minutes – Dr. William Benner, Chair
 - a. Correct Aubri Thurmond's name.
- V. 2025-2026 Undergraduate Council Meeting Dates

Undergraduate Council Meeting Dates	Time	Location	Deadline for Course and Program Proposals
Wednesday, September 24, 2025	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, September 2 nd
Wednesday, October 22, 2025	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, October 7 th
*Wednesday, December 3, 2024	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, November 4 th
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, January 6 th
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, February 3 rd
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, March 3 rd



Wednesday, April 22, 2026	2:30 pm-4:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday, April 7 th
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*UG Council will meet one week later due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

VI. ADA and Title II Revisions – Allison Peterson, Director of Instructional Development & Learning Design

- a. [Slides](#) and [website link](#)
- b. Overview of the changes and updates for course content and accessibility for students.
- c. Question: Dr. Benner: For someone with a native language other than English, how does that factor into the services provided? Alli Peterson: Ally does have some language translation functionality that can help with that, but Tereasa can be a resource to help navigate that side of accessibility.
- d. Next workshop – Thursday, 9/25 and Tuesday, 9/30

VII. Sub Committee Introductions and Updates

- a. Dr. Benner: Theme of Collaboration and adding an Ad Hoc committee from the Assessment Sub-Committee and Academic Policy Advisory Sub-Committee as there can be some dry spells for these two committees every few years where there is not a lot of work from them or they are having to come up with their own ideas and tasks. We are thinking through ideas of interprofessional education with workshops by exploring what makes a great undergraduate program. I will be working with Dr. Matt Brown and Ms. Aubri Thurmond.
We will continue with the awards and the expansion of the awards.
Dr. Aimee Myers – the syllabi workshop that Dr. Bender and Dr. Myers developed will be shifting to a webinar style, which will be housed on the Undergraduate Council website.
- b. Course Proposal Sub-Committee – Dr. Joy Spadachene, Chair: no update
- c. Program Review Sub-Committee – Dr. Jerry Burkett, Chair: no update
- d. Assessment Sub-Committee – Ms. Aubri Thurmond, Chair:
 - i. Workforce readiness + Benner's discussion
 - ii. Need a better task long-term for this sub-committee
- e. Academic Policy Advisory Sub-Committee - Dr. Matt Brown, Chair: no update

VIII. TWU Undergraduate Studies Updates – Dr. Brandi Falley:

- a. This is being discussed and mentioned through each division/school that the course and content are aligned with what is being taught and what is in the course description. We want to get ahead and be up to date when the state implements the course description and content match.

IX. Other Business: Small edits to the Undergraduate Council Bylaws will need to be updated due to the new leadership and office change. Will need two readings and a vote. We will start the first reading at the October meeting and the second reading and vote at the November meeting.



X. Adjourned at 3:10 pm

- a. Motioned by Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott
- b. Seconded by Dr. Joy Spadachene

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

DRAFT