



CURRICULUM &
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

**Texas Woman's University
Undergraduate Council
Academic Year Theme: Advocacy**

February 26th, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM

- I. Welcome: Dr. Jorge F. Figueroa, VP-Curriculum and Strategic Initiatives (CSI)
- II. Opening Remarks and Quorum check: Dr. William Benner
- III. Review and Motion for approval of January 29th meeting minutes: Dr. William Benner
 - a. Motion to accept with corrections: Dr. Matt Brown
 - b. Second by Dr. Rebecca West
- IV. Core Curriculum Advisory Committee Update: Dr. Aimee Myers

Dr. Aimee Myers – I was able to meet with the extended cabinet last week and talked to them about the thoughts on the Core Curriculum Advisory Board. There are six main pieces to it that we want to set as our vision/mission. 1) make sure we are engaging in exploratory discussions around the core curriculum; we are not making any decisions 2) making recommendations to the administration 3) developing some strategies for retention that are built around belonging and empowerment 4) formulate ways to make the first year experience more meaningful 5) create a space for more faculty engagement and agency when it comes to the core curriculum 6) support assessment and accreditation needs. We will make sure we have faculty from all different areas to represent also some adjuncts because they teach so much of our core courses, so it's really important that their voices are included and then we will also have some staff. Our first meeting is next week so if there are specific things related to the core curriculum that you want me to be able to build into the foundation of what we are doing you can email me.

Ms. Sarah Gamblin – When you say “representatives from each of the FCA's” can you remind me what FCA stands for again?

Dr. Aimee Myers – Foundation and Component Areas – with the core curriculum they are broken down into different sections like the English courses that they have to take, the fine arts courses...

Ms. Sarah Gamblin – Oh, like the numbers

Dr. Aimee Myers – Yes

Ms. Sarah Gamblin – Not everyone from every division will be involved



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Dr. Aimee Myers – No, because there are a lot of divisions that don't have any core courses, so we are trying to make sure that we include people that have those core courses included.

Ms. Sarah Gamblin – How will the selection process work for the committee?

Dr. Aimee Myers, We are trying to ensure that all of the colleges have representation. My plan as the chair is to ensure that we give all divisions, departments, and schools the opportunity to visit with us and share information.

Ms. Sarah Gamblin – How many people would be on this committee?

Dr. Jorge Figueroa – Currently, there are seven members on the committee. This committee is strictly exploratory and will provide recommendations to Dr. Bauer. Also, thank you Dr. Myers for chairing the committee.

- V. Creating a Well-Rounded Syllabus Workshop Update: Dr. Aimee Myers
 - a. Registration deadline is March 30th
 - b. The workshop date is April 15th
- VI. UG Council sub-committees' updates: Dr. William Benner
 - a. Program Review: Dr. Rebecca West
 - i. Bachelor of Music in Music (EC-12, Music Certification, Mariachi Emphasis)
 - i. As the number of mariachi programs in schools have increased over the past 10 years there has been a greater demand for mariachi trained music educators to lead these programs. Additionally, the Texas Music Educators Association has added both an all-state mariachi ensemble as well as invited and program spotlight mariachi ensemble opportunities to its annual convention program thus highlighting the importance of mariachi education in the state of Texas. Currently there are similar programs at Texas State University as well as The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. This would be the first program of its kind in the North Texas area. It would add value to our Hispanic serving student university. It would not require additional faculty and aligns with cultural interests of our students.
Approved by committee
 - ii. Bachelor of Science in Food Science
 - i. The Bachelor of Science in Food Science provides training in various aspects of food science and technology to prepare students for careers in different parts of the food industry. The program includes an independent study option to intern with community



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stakeholders or work with university research faculty to increase students' knowledge and skills while providing a new pathway to employment in a STEM field following graduation. Texas A&M and Texas Tech are the only two universities in Texas that currently offer a BS in Food Science or Food Science & Technology. There is an average of 30 BS in Food Science graduates at Texas A&M annually and there is an average of 7 BS in Food Science graduates at Texas Tech likely with a majority focusing on meat science. No universities in the DFW Metroplex have a BS in Food Science.

Dr. Rebecca West - We did have two questions for this proposal if there is a representative from this program here today.

Dr. Cynthia Warren – I'm here

Dr. Rebecca West - In the proposal they noted that a key word search resulted in 202 open positions so of the different types of jobs that exist under those searches how many graduates from this program be qualified to apply for?

Dr. Cynthia Warren – Almost all of them, but it would be a student that has a bachelor's not an advanced degree.

Dr. Rebecca West – Thank you for that clarification

Dr. Rebecca West – The second question we had was what existing labs, resources, space or technology are in place to support the new program? What additional equipment, resources or technology are needed? And what plan is in place to acquire any additional equipment or resources that are needed?

Dr. Cynthia Warren – We currently have labs; food pod development lab and just a general food lab to use. We go through the process as needed to add equipment using the HEF funds. We also get donations from industry so we try to keep up as much as possible by using those venues to acquire equipment. We are pretty much up to speed right now.

Dr. William Benner – Open the floor to the Undergraduate Council

Dr. Joy Spadachene – With that small number of graduates that was cited in the proposal for the programs at the other two universities was there any interrogation of TWU's businesses' even our students here at TWU indicating that there would be an interest in this program?

Dr. Cynthia Warren – We currently have several students in a program we have called "Food, Nutrition, Business and Industry" which is kind of a hybrid with Nutrition, Business and Food Science.



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There is a lot of interest; we have about 40 students in that. I don't know the exact number that we graduate every year.

Dr. William Benner – With this bachelor's degree how easy is it then to get a graduate degree through us or someone else? Is there an easy route to graduate school with this?

Dr. Cynthia Warren – Yes, we have a master's in Flavor Chemistry and Food Science here that is maxed out. I have a student who went to A&M and got her Ph.D., and she works for PepsiCo now. We do have that opportunity, and our students are valued in the marketplace.

Approved by council

- b. Assessment: Ms. Aubri Thurmond: Backwards Design Workshop
 - i. The workshop date is March 28th
 - ii. 18 faculty members have registered 7 of those are adjuncts who will be eligible to receive the stipend provided by the Academic Assessment office.
 - c. Academic Policy Advisory: Dr. Matt Brown: No updates
 - d. Course Proposal Review: Dr. Joy Spadachene: No updates/courses
- VII. CSI Updates – Mr. Scott Martin & Mr. Terrell Shaw
- a. CL 10 update and 2025-2026 TWU Catalog edit: Mr. Scott Martin
 - i. CL 10 has been fully implemented. A new centralized dashboard will launch soon. It will include programs, proposals and catalog pages. Catalog is out for editing – curriculum is not done as part of the catalog process that is done through the CIM system and whatever is approved when we publish is what will appear in the catalog.
 - b. Update to new academic program processes and dates: Mr. Scott Martin
 - i. The BOR requires a minimum of five weeks before its meeting to receive proposals for consideration regarding any new degree designation. The overlap in timing does not permit programs approved during our last session to be implemented starting in the Fall, as they will miss the BOR deadline. We have clarified on our website which programs may or may not make it, and we have advised the Graduate School to potentially note theirs as well.
 - c. Transfer Partnerships and Pathways Chat: Mr. Terrell Shaw
 - i. We had our first “Transfer Pathway Chat” with our academic champions (staff and faculty). We brainstormed various issues and potential strategies for transfer student success. Mr. Adam Pitts and Ms. Brittnee Hernandez from enrollment management joined us for



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the discussion and expressed a desire to meet with the academic components.

VIII. New Business: Dr. William Benner

- a. We are nearing the end of the academic year, so we will conclude the piloting of the Undergraduate Council Awards. The Service Award will be presented to a faculty member of the Undergraduate Council in recognition of their service and dedication to the council. The second award will be given to an innovative program, and we will wait for the March meeting to see if we receive additional programs for approval before the executive committee votes. I want to note that the executive committee members are not eligible for either award.
- b. I hope to have the Undergraduate Council Leadership Handbook at the March meeting, as it is near completion. The handbook is designed to help with the transitions of leadership in the Undergraduate Council.
- c. Also, in the last Undergraduate Council meeting in April, voting for the Chair and Vice Chair for the next academic year will occur.
- d. Next UG Council meeting: 3/26/2025

IX. Adjourn: at 3:08

- a. Motion: Dr. Joy Spadachene
- b. Second: Dr. Tina Gumienny