

Faculty Senate Minutes for October 28, 2025

Executive Committee Members in attendance: Nicholas Hinojosa, Wendi Williams, Jaclyn Miller, Silvia Herrera, and Maria Cervantes.

Senators in attendance:

Business and Public Safety: Ruby Campuzano, Jesus Amaya, JoAnna Martinez, Claudia Mercado, and Ana Valladarez.

Liberal Arts: Micah Bailey, Annie Liss, Robert Miller, Melissa Terry, Rachael Brown, and Robin Bell.

Math, Science, and IT: Courtney Galle, Mehrzad Mahmoudian-Gellar, Reginald Gonzales, Juan Luna, Fidel Rodriguez, and Isauro Zaragoza.

Nursing and Allied Health: Layman Darnell Miller and Sharon Rice.

Social Behavioral Science: Nihan Kayaardi Hinojosa, Pooja Rishi, Tim Weber, Lisa Veliz, and Celina A. Jorge.

Bachelor's Programs: Rebecca L. Lynch and Laura Garcia.

Senators absent: Victor Fonseca, Blanca Herrera, and Alexa Trigo.

Meeting Agenda

4:00 pm: Welcome and Check Quorum

- Quorum was verified.

4:05 pm: Vote on Past Meeting Minutes

- JoAnna Martinez made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Mehrzad, and Nicholas facilitated a poll for voting, with Wendi reminding that only voting members may participate.
- 29 poll responses (27 voted yes and 2 abstained on the poll; met quorum and passed).
 - Note: Senators voted for the September minutes and quorum was met; however, names were not recorded so the minutes will be voted on again in the next meeting.

4:08 pm: Student Government Association (SGA)

Guest Speaker: Marc Cardenas - President-Elect of SGA

Marc Cardenas, SGA President-elect, presented the new SGA SharePoint site to the Faculty Senate, explaining its features, accessibility, and confidentiality protocols.

- **Site Overview and Purpose:** Marc Cardenas introduced the SGA SharePoint site, detailing its homepage, which includes information about SGA's mission, election results, constitution, and links for students to voice concerns, apply to SGA, and access official documents such as meeting agendas and minutes.
- **Campus-Specific Information:** Marc demonstrated the Pecan campus section, highlighting officer listings, meeting schedules, and the process for students to submit concerns, as well as the inclusion of social media links and campus location details.
- **Confidentiality and Handling of Student Concerns:** In response to Ruby's question, Marc clarified that all concerns and applications submitted through the site are received

by coordinator Elizabeth Lopez, are kept confidential, and are not shared outside the SGA administrative structure.

- **Collaboration with Faculty and Other Organizations:** Marc and Nicholas discussed opportunities for future collaboration between SGA and Faculty Senate, with Marc offering to present in classes and inviting faculty to reach out for joint initiatives.
- **SGA Support for Student Organizations:** Mehrzad inquired about SGA's role in coordinating with student organizations, and Marc explained that SGA works with various clubs, assists with policy updates, and collaborates with the campus coordinator to support organizational needs.

4:22 pm: Campus Safety

Guest Speakers: Chief of Police, Ruben Suarez and Emergency Preparedness and Training Manager, James Archer.

Ruben Suarez, Chief of Police, James Archer, Emergency Preparedness Manager, and Lieutenant Johnny Barboza presented updates on the campus safety website, emergency communication systems, training programs, and lessons learned from the March floods.

- **Campus Safety Website and Resources:** James Archer demonstrated the updated campus safety website, which consolidates emergency procedures, training links, AED locations, and printable emergency preparedness materials, and explained how faculty and staff can access these resources.
- **Emergency Communication Systems:** James described the Rave and Rave Guardian systems, explaining automatic enrollment for emergency alerts, the optional Guardian app for direct communication with campus dispatch, and the importance of keeping contact information current.
- **Training Programs:** Lieutenant Barboza outlined the multi-phase civilian response to active shooter training, including hands-on 'Stop the Bleed' sessions and realistic scenario exercises, and encouraged faculty participation.
- **March Floods After-Action Review:** James summarized the after-action review of the March floods, highlighting improvements in operational coordination, mass care planning, and sheltering procedures, with new protocols and equipment being implemented across campuses.
- **Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Emergency Planning:** Wendi requested deliberate planning for persons with disabilities, and James confirmed compliance with Texas School Safety Center requirements, stating that emergency operations plans are reviewed to ensure inclusivity.

4:49 pm: Workday Student Implementation

Guest Speakers: Coordinator – Enrollment Services, Hector Cerdá Dyer and Director-College Connections, Lazaro Barroso.

Hector Cerdá and Lazaro Barroso presented an overview of the Workday Student implementation, outlining the change management process, training plans, project timeline, and integration with existing systems.

- **Project Scope and Change Management:** Hector explained that the change management team, co-chaired with Larry Barroso and supported by external partners, is responsible for communication and training related to the transition from Banner to Workday Student, engaging stakeholders across the college.
- **Website Preview and Communication Plans:** A preview of the forthcoming Workday Student website was shown, which will provide project updates, leadership contacts, and a transition timeline, with a dedicated email for questions; the site is expected to go live after November 7th.
- **Training and Support for Faculty and Students:** Hector and Lazaro described plans for on-demand and asynchronous training modules for both faculty and students, with student training to be developed in consultation with SGA and other groups, and emphasized that the transition will be gradual, with full implementation by fall 2027.
- **System Integrations and Feature Questions:** Mehrzad asked about the integration of Starfish and DegreeWorks; Hector and Lazaro clarified that DegreeWorks will be replaced by Workday's built-in tools, while Starfish integration is under review, with the goal of seamless user experience.
- **Lessons Learned from Previous Workday Rollouts:** Reginald raised concerns about the previous Workday HR rollout, and Hector assured that the student implementation is a separate project with a longer timeline, allowing for more comprehensive training and stakeholder engagement.

5:14 pm: The Academic Freedom Reaffirmation by Board of Trustees

- Tabled due to time constraint.

5:14 pm: Flyer and Advertisements on campus

Micah raised a constituent's concerns about restrictions on posting political flyers on department doors.

- **Constituent Concerns and Policy Questions:** Micah relayed concerns about the removal of political flyers from department doors, questioning the rationale and consistency of enforcement, and asked for clarification on the scope of posting restrictions.
- **Current Posting Practices:** Marc explained that SGA and student organizations are instructed to use public bulletin boards for flyers, with department-owned boards requiring permission, and Mehrzad added that student organization flyers must be approved by the Office of Student Activities and include a disclaimer.
- **Next Steps for Policy Clarification:** Nicholas agreed to follow up with administration to clarify the official policy on flyer posting locations and content, aiming to provide a clear response to the constituent's concerns.

5:24 pm: Open Discussion

Faculty Survey on Multi-year Contracts:

Fidel presented preliminary results from a faculty survey on multi-year contracts, discussing survey methodology and initial findings, but the discussion was tabled due to time constraints, with plans to prioritize it at the next meeting.

- **Survey Overview and Initial Results:** Fidel shared that the Salary and Benefits Committee developed an anonymous survey to gauge faculty interest in multi-year contracts, with initial responses indicating support and preferences for contract length and evaluation criteria.
- **Discussion of Evaluation Criteria:** Nicholas and Fidel clarified that the intent was for supervisor evaluations, not student evaluations, to be the basis for contract renewal, noting some confusion in survey responses.
- **Tabling and Next Steps:** Due to time constraints and meeting protocol, the committee agreed to table the discussion and prioritize it at the top of the next meeting's agenda, with plans to expand survey distribution.

5:31 pm: Meeting was Adjourned

- Meeting was adjourned once Wendi reminded the senate of the time.

Next Senate Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Total Time Duration: 1 hour and 31 minutes