

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Minutes March 2, 2026

Location: Ashraf Islam Engineering Building, Room 244

Present: M. Allen (Board of Trustees Faculty Rep.), M. Atkinson (Senate President-Elect), C. Brown, S. Browning, W. Carroll, B. Carver, R. Chitiyo, S. Christen, M. Comer, K. Craven (Senate President), M. Creter, A. Donadio, J. Field, J. Gannod, K. Grimes, S. Hasan, R. Hall, A. Hill (Senate Secretary), C. Hill, M. Hu, J. Jenkins, A. Kalyanapu, K. Kennedy, R. LeBorne, J. Mabry, T. Majors, A. Manginelli, D. Mann, L. Null, B. O'Connor, J. Ojo, M. Olsen, H. Park, M. Rajabali, S. Seiler, L.A. Shipley, A. Spears, L. Suters, D. Tennant, T. Timmerman K. Trent, S. Wendt, B. Wilson, K. Winkle (Chair, Academic Council), K. Xu

Absent: J. Baier, C. Killman, M. Natrass, Y. Peng, T. Smith (Past-President)

Time Called to Order: 3:42 p.m.

Presiding: K. Craven (Senate President)

1. Approvals

Agenda Approved – Christen/Rajabali

Minutes/Notes Approved: Allen/Christen, 1 abstention recorded

- Nov. 3, 2025, Business Meeting
- Feb. 16, 2026, Meeting with President Oldham

2. Task Force on a School of Computing

(Dr. Jerry Gannod)

- Initiative **originated from President/Provost's Office**, not Computer Science
- Goal: **Unify computing-related programs** and develop shared strategy
- Unclear whether final structure will be a **college, school, or institute**
- Programs involved: computer science, computer engineering, AI/analytics, geosciences AI, interdisciplinary computing, cybersecurity, graduate CS programs, and others incorporating AI
- Task force includes representatives from **Education/Human Sciences, Arts & Sciences, Emerging & Integrative Studies, Engineering, Business**
- Tentative operational start date: **July 1**

- Concerns raised:
 - **Cost, faculty lines, administrative commitment** unclear
 - **Lack of communication** and **fast timeline**
 - Minimal clarity on impact to departmental course offerings (likely “status quo” for now)
 - Math may contribute to “Math of AI / Machine Learning” content
 - No new degree programs proposed—focus is on coordination of existing courses.

3. Survey on Summer Responsibilities (Dr. Kris Craven)

- Purpose: Determine how widespread the issue is of **faculty being asked to work off-contract** during summer
- Survey type: **Qualtrics**
- Intent: Data-driven decision-making
- Questions raised about:
 - Whether results will lead to **policy guidance or protections**
 - Whether **deans** should receive the survey
 - Whether **summer committee service should be compensated**
 - Preparing recommendations for the **incoming Provost**

4. TUFs Update (Dr. Megan Atkinson)

- Main focus: **Tenure bill HB2194**; universities encouraged to issue statements
- Volunteers (Null and A. Hill) will help compile statement materials
- Deadline for feedback to TUFs: **March 31**
- Discussion also included:
 - **Reduced-credit bachelor’s degrees**
 - Reviewing MTSU’s statement as a model for TTU's response

5. Other Such Matters

- Need to revisit the **Ombudsperson proposal** (document will be reposted to Teams)
- Plan to meet again next week to work on:
 - Ombudsperson proposal
 - TUFs statement
 - Summer responsibilities survey
- Dr. Craven will send a **poll** and arrange **food** for the working-session meeting
- Financial update (Dr. Allen):
 - Audit shows **strong price-to-earnings ratio**
 - **Debt ratio down**, but campus construction has tightened finances

- **Parking garage** costs \$39 million (bond funded); students will contribute to payment
- Total campus assets projected at **\$800 million** once construction is completed

6. Other Such Matters

7. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Christen/Atkinson. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.