



**Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting Minutes**

<b>DAY:</b> Thursday, February 19, 2026 <b>TIME:</b> 1:00 PM – 1:54 PM CST <b>LOCATION:</b> Microsoft Teams <b>FACILITATOR:</b> Dr. Ann Marie Smith	
<b>Attendees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Halil Tas</li><li>2. Dr. Ann Marie Smith</li><li>3. Ms. Shweta Shroff</li><li>4. Dr. Nadeem Daudpota</li><li>5. Dr. Tomas Green</li><li>6. Dr. LaTisha Metts</li><li>7. Dr. Riaz Mahmood</li><li>8. Dr. Yaseen Bhutto</li><li>9. Dr. Azamat Zhamanov</li></ol>
<b>Members Absent</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Jason Villanueva</li></ol>
<b>Approved previous meeting minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes from the previous Faculty Senate meeting (November 19, 2025) were approved.</li><li>• Motion to approve by Dr. LaTisha Metts; seconded by Dr. Yaseen Bhutto.</li></ul>
<b>Meeting minutes agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provost Report - Dr. Halil Tas<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Parameters for in-person or online classes</li><li>b. HR issues</li></ol></li><li>2. Approve previous meeting's minutes</li><li>3. Problems with support offices for students and faculty</li><li>4. Athletes and classes</li><li>5. Old Business: Policy on committee attendance</li><li>6. New Business</li></ol>
<b>Discussion and Explanation to the agenda presented.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Provost Report - Dr. Halil Tas</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a. Parameters for In-Person or Online Classes</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classes have remained online for approximately one month due to elevator limitations following fire-related damage.</li><li>• Faculty may request in-person instruction for courses that are difficult to deliver online (e.g., certain math or specialized courses).</li><li>• Only essential or small classes are permitted on campus to avoid heavy use of the single operational elevator.</li><li>• No confirmed timeline is available for full elevator repair due to pending insurance decisions, adjuster review, fire marshal report, and landlord coordination.</li></ul></li></ol></li></ol>



- The Provost continues to follow up regularly with relevant parties.
- International student compliance concerns were noted; updates are expected after further communication with appropriate offices.

**b. HR Issues**

- Concerns were raised regarding payroll delays and administrative errors.
- Issues included lack of responsiveness and delay in activation of medical insurance coverage.
- Two HR personnel are new, including a payroll-specific hire.
- The Provost acknowledged operational concerns and indicated payroll issues are expected to improve in the near future.

**2. Problems with Support Offices for Students and Faculty**

- Faculty reported students experiencing difficulty contacting Student Finance and other support offices.
- Concerns included unanswered emails, unreturned phone calls, and delayed issue resolution.
- Faculty emphasized the importance of accountability and proper training for staff and student workers.
- IT services were also mentioned within the broader support office discussion.
- The Senate President will compile concerns and forward them to appropriate administrators.

**3. Athletes and Classes**

- Multiple faculty reported student-athletes not attending webinars, not reviewing recordings, and not submitting assignments.
- The issue was clarified as lack of academic engagement rather than attendance alone.
- Dr. Tomas Green agreed to follow up with the coach and CC the Faculty Senate.
- The possibility of inviting the coach to a future Faculty Senate meeting was discussed and agreed upon.

**4. Old Business - Policy on Committee Attendance**

**Committee Transparency and Assignment**

- Faculty expressed uncertainty regarding committee assignments and lack of notification when added to committees.
- A previously requested comprehensive committee directory (including members and chairs) has not yet been received.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senate members agreed that a transparent directory should include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Committee names</li><li>– Membership lists</li><li>– Chairs</li><li>– Purpose of committee</li><li>– Frequency of meetings</li></ul></li><li>• Concerns were raised regarding uneven distribution of committee workload and absence of a maximum committee limit.</li><li>• Suggestions included preference-based assignments and clearer structural guidelines.</li></ul> <p><b>Incentives, Promotion, and Tenure Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty noted lack of tenure-track positions at the university.</li><li>• Promotion (Assistant → Associate → Full) exists but is not tied to tenure.</li><li>• Limited financial incentives for research publications were acknowledged.</li><li>• Faculty discussed the impact of absence of tenure on motivation and retention, particularly for younger faculty.</li><li>• The Senate President indicated these concerns would be communicated to administration.</li></ul> <p><b>5. New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No additional new business items were formally introduced.</li></ul>
<b>Items not approved</b>	None. All agenda items were either discussed or deferred for follow-up.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Scheduled for March 19, 2026. Agenda to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee transparency follow-up</li><li>• Athlete academic engagement follow-up</li></ul>
<b>Recorded By</b>	Dr. Nadeem Daudpota, Faculty Senate Secretary
<b>Adjourned</b>	Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:54 PM. Motion to adjourn by Dr. Ann Marie Smith; seconded by Dr. Tomas Green.