



Texas Council of Faculty Senates

A Federation of Texas Faculty Governance

Spring 2026 Meeting Minutes Embassy Suites – San Antonio Brooks Hotel & Spa February 27-28, 2026

In attendance: The Executive Board Members

Tabitha Morton, President

Joseph Velasco, Past President

Wynne Chin, Treasurer and Past President

James Woosley, President Emeritus

Christopher A. Gabler, Vice President, South Central Region

Zachary Valdes, Vice President, East Region

TCFS Members Present: 34

Universities Represented: 21

East Region

Lamar Institute of
Technology
Lamar University –
Beaumont
Prairie View A&M
University
Sam Houston State
University
Texas A&M
University –
College Station
University of Houston
University of Houston
– Clear Lake

Northeast Region

East Texas A&M
University
Texas Woman's
University
University of North
Texas – Dallas
University of North
Texas – Denton

South Central Region

Texas A&M
University – Central
Texas
Texas A&M
University – Corpus
Christi
Texas A&M
University –
Kingsville
Texas State University
University of Texas –
Rio Grande Valley
University of Texas at
San Antonio

West Region

Sul Ross State
University
Tarleton State
University
Texas Tech
University

Representatives from Each Region:

East: 16

Northeast: 5

South Central: 8

West: 5

AAUP, TACT, TAFT, TFA, and NAACP Representatives: 24

Total Attendees: 58

CALL TO ORDER THE BUSINESS MEETING, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

President Tabitha Morton (PVAMU, Political Science) called the meeting to order as there were enough TCFS members in attendance to constitute a quorum.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Wynne Chin (UH, Decision and Information Sciences) presented the treasurer's report, emphasizing the budget shortfall. Revenue totaled \$39,000 for Fall 2024–Spring 2025 but was projected to decline to \$27,000 for 2025–26. The decrease is primarily due to reduced System Chancellor contributions, which dropped from \$15,000—three \$5,000 contributions—to \$5,000, or one contribution. The shortfall was further affected by the withdrawal of UT System institutions from TCFS, resulting in lost institutional dues and registration fees. Expenses totaled \$34,000 for the period, while core revenue excluding Chancellor funds was \$24,000, leaving an estimated \$10,000 deficit. The Spring 2026 conference cost was estimated at \$12,500, and total projected expenses for 2025–26 are approximately \$35,000. Treasurer Chin cautioned that reserves could be exhausted if this trend continues and recommended reducing costs by canceling a meeting or holding one of every four meetings virtually.

President Morton noted that letters requesting support from Systems' Chancellors were mailed out to all Systems, including the University of Texas on December 1, 2025, and that a follow-up round was planned for late April-May. She asked TCFS members who would be interested in co-crafting and signing letters to speak with her and their regional Vice President. She commented that "cold requests" from unknown senders asking for \$5,000 were unlikely to succeed, whereas local contacts of known representatives improved response as evidenced by the TAMU System's gift.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

President Morton requested a motion from the floor to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2025, meeting. Christopher A. Gabler (South Central Region Vice President; UTRGV, Plant Ecology and Sustainability, Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences) made a friendly amendment to correct the minutes noting that he was not present at the fall meeting. Jessica Velasco (SRSU, Political Science and Public Administration) moved to approve the amended minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands, with four members abstaining because they were not present at the Fall 2025 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Change to Bylaws | Texas Council of Faculty Senates Article XV – President Emeritus to the Bylaws¹

Proposed Article XV, President Emeritus, recognizes distinguished and sustained leadership. The honorary, advisory designation preserves institutional memory and supports continuity, stability, and effective governance. Eligibility requires prior service as TCFS President and at least five years on the Executive Committee, which includes service as Vice President, Regional Vice President, or another elected executive office; however, eligibility does not guarantee nomination or election. Nominations come from the Executive Committee, which verifies eligibility. Election requires a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, which is not required to confer the title in any given year. The President Emeritus serves in a non-voting advisory role, is not

¹ See Appendix A.

counted toward quorum, may not simultaneously hold another elected office, and retains the designation unless it is revoked for cause by a two-thirds vote. Jim Woosley's designation as President Emeritus was created by suspending the bylaws.

The proposed addition was read, amended, and approved for submission to the full membership by email ballot. Amendments approved by a two-thirds majority of ballots returned within forty-five days of mailing take effect immediately.

The Three Branches of University Governance Comprising the “Joint Effort” of Shared Governance.²

Committee work began in July 2024 with initial members Joey Velasco; Karl Aho (Tarleton, Philosophy); Kevin Badgett (UT-Permian Basin, Educational Leadership); Coby Condrey (UNT, Research Support Services, Libraries); Tracy Hammond (TAMU, Computer and Information Sciences); and Michael Kesden (UT Dallas, Physics). The document defined three branches of university governance—governing board, administration, and faculty—roles based on the 1966 AAUP statement. It described shared governance as the joint responsibility of faculty, administration, and governing boards, with each group's voice weighted according to its responsibility and expertise. The committee aimed to produce a one-page best-practices white paper, inspired by the UT System's 2016 white paper, that could serve as an elevator speech. TCFS members discussed the white paper and editorial revisions were approved, but the motion was withdrawn so the full draft could return to committee for further work and sensitivity edits.

GENERAL SPRING ELECTIONS

Elections were held for Vice President positions in the Northeast and West Regions and for President-Elect.

Regional Vice Presidents serve on the Executive Committee, attend meetings—typically monthly and weekly during crises—help plan conferences, coordinate panels and committees, and carry out presidential assignments. The term is two years.

The Northeast Region includes Midwestern State University; East Texas (formerly Commerce); Texas A&M Texarkana; Texas Woman's University; University of North Texas (Denton); UNT Health Sciences; UNT Dallas.

The West Region includes Angelo State University; Sul Ross State University; Tarleton State University; Texas Tech University; West Texas A&M.

Melissa M. McKay (UNT, Multidisciplinary Innovation, Applied and Collaborative Studies) was the sole nominee for the Northeast Region, and Jessica Velasco was the sole nominee for the West Region. Both were elected by acclamation.

² See Appendix B

Christopher A. Gabler was the sole nominee for President-Elect and was elected by acclamation. His election left the South Central Region Vice President position vacant. Scott Johnson was nominated for that position and elected by acclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Morton reminded the TCFS members that the Texas-AAUP meeting was underway in the adjacent ballroom should anyone want to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

President Morton adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

Appendix A

Proposed Change to Bylaws | Texas Council of Faculty Senates

Article XV: President Emeritus

Section 1. Purpose

The title of President Emeritus recognizes distinguished and sustained leadership and service to the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS). The designation is honorary and advisory in nature and affirms the value of safeguarding institutional memory to promote continuity, stability, and informed governance within the Executive¹ Committee.

Section 2. Eligibility

1. A nominee must:
 - Have served as President of TCFS; and
 - Have completed at least five (5) years of service on the Executive Committee.
2. Service on the Executive Committee includes time served in any elected executive office.
3. Eligibility does not guarantee nomination or election.

Section 3. Nomination and Election

1. Nominations for President Emeritus shall originate from the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall verify eligibility.
3. Election to President Emeritus requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee is not required to confer the title in any given year.

Section 4. Role

1. The President Emeritus serves in a non-voting, advisory capacity.
2. The President Emeritus shall not be counted toward quorum and shall not simultaneously hold another elected office.
3. The designation continues unless revoked for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

¹ Friendly amendment to add “Executive” was approved by show of hands on February 26, 2026.

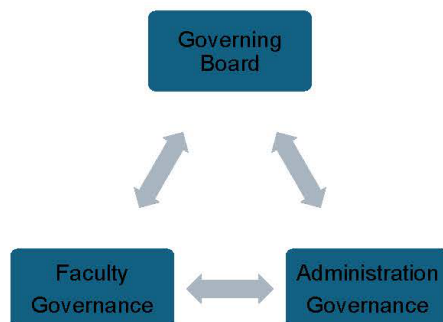
Appendix B



The Three Branches of University Governance Comprising the “Joint Effort” of Shared Governance

(as described in the AAUP 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities)

- **Governing Board:** Responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and representing the institution. The President serves as the CEO.
- **Administration:** Manages institutional operations and decision-making at the dean level and above. Comprised of Deans and above, including the university President.
- **Faculty:** Holds primary responsibility for curriculum, research, faculty status, and aspects of student life related to education.



Shared Governance Defined

Shared governance refers to the joint responsibility and joint effort of faculty, administrations, and governing boards to govern colleges and universities. Differences in weight of each group’s voice on a particular issue should be determined by the extent of its responsibility for and expertise on that issue.