

Attendees: Dr. Neil Matkin, Melissa Irby, Dr. Abe Johnson, Dr. Jay Corwin, Monica Velazquez, Mary McClure, Todd Horkman, Dr. Wendy Commons, Dr. Kerry Loinette, Dr. Christine Millard, Dr. Matt Hamilton, Dr. Randy Kinnett, Dr. Diana Gingo, Laura Varnell (meeting recorder)

Members Absent: Dr. Bill King, Cherry Brown, Tiana Matijevic

Action Items

1. Student Reinstatement SOP - Abe Johnson

- The draft was presented for review at the September 18, 2025, AGS Council meeting.
- No feedback or concerns were received; therefore, the document was presented for a vote.

Dr. Wendy Commons motioned to approve. Dr. Randy Kinnett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Faculty Hiring Manual – Abe Johnson

- The draft was presented for review at the September 18, 2025, AGS Council meeting. No feedback or concerns were received.
- Upon request, clarification was given that any editorial changes do not need to be returned to AGS for a vote; significant changes, additions or deletions will be presented to AGS.
- This edition includes the processes for hiring full-time faculty, adjuncts, and full-time faculty transfers and encompassed several major changes from the previous version, thus requiring a vote.
- The section on temporary full-time faculty is in progress, and the sections on the administrator hiring process and the staff hiring process are upcoming.

Matt Hamilton motioned to approve. Dr. Wendy Commons seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

1. Use of SAFAC Funds – Dr. Neil Matkin

- Dr. Matkin received a call from a legislator regarding the college's Banned Book Week Celebration held on October 7, 2025, that had approximately 75 attendees.
- The college must ensure that SAFAC funds are only used by student organizations for student led activities, and not as a perceived "front" for faculty agendas.
- Discussion was held on challenges in using funds without seeming to push "agendas."
- Dr. Gingo to send Dr. Matkin a synopsis of the Banned Books Program.

2. Scholastic Dishonesty Policy Review – Jay Corwin

- These recommendations presented came out of the development of the Honor Council.
- The FLB(Local) recommendation is a one-word change from “will” to “may” to give more authority to the faculty member to decide appropriate repercussions (noted on page 2 of 5).
- The FMA(Local) recommendations are denoted in green for additions to the policy and red for eliminations. Recommendations are open to feedback.
- General Counsel Monica Velazquez clarified that procedural issues specified in a handbook or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) can be enforced with as much effect as policy if they are provided ahead of time. Students and faculty must be aware of procedures.
- General Counsel will review the recommendations presented and prepare a first read of the policy changes.

3. Improving Communication & Timelines for College-wide Initiatives – Matt Hamilton

- How can we improve the communication and roll-out of new initiatives?
- Many faculty felt a lot of new, major initiatives came “out of left field” in the middle of the semester (ex. - Cougar Book Bundle, graduation ceremony changes, and faculty rank deadlines).
- A proposed suggestion was to align new initiative implementation with the academic calendar. Initiatives could be presented during a semester with the understanding that they would begin either the following semester or the next academic year.
- It was agreed that more discussions should be held.

4. SB 2615 Telework Restrictions & TASB Interpretation – Matt Hamilton

- Faculty have concerns about how the college will implement this upcoming law and how it will be communicated to faculty.
- Administration feels that faculty currently meet these guidelines and expects very little impact.
- General Counsel advised that the college needs to wait on the TASB and Co-Board interpretations before implementing any guidelines.
- Faculty Council requests guidance once more is known.

5. Exploring the Inclusion of Honor Council Chairperson in AGS – Matt Hamilton

- Discussion was held on whether the Honor Council Chairperson fulfills the criteria for inclusion on the AGS council.
- Dr. Matkin will consider and revisit at the next AGS Council meeting.

Feedback Items - None

Information Items - None

Round Robin

- Wendy Commons – OAB has almost completed reviewing course templates after 5 years (including the delay caused by the COVID-19 shutdown). A subcommittee has been established to develop a process for cyclical reviews.
- Abe Johnson – There are 3 new programs (all medical) going to the Board for approval. They will start in spring 2027 if approved by all necessary parties. The job requisition for a new Health Sciences Dean is posted.
- Diana – COE is preparing to reviewing packets for approximately 158 peer reviews.
- Dr. Matkin – UTD has new president who is a graduate of India's Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). The college is hoping to build a partnership with UTD with the help of Trustee Raj Menon, who is also an IIT alumnus. Also, Dr. Mary McRae and Dr. Sherry Schumann both retire on May 31st, and a national search is being considered for these positions.

Meeting adjourned 4:24