University of North Texas at Dallas
Faculty Senate Minutes
October 2, 2026
Time: 11:30 a.m.–12:47 p.m.
Location: STEM 316

Present
Korin Munsterman, Presiding Officer; Joshua Goodson, Associate Presiding Officer; Glenda Balas, Secretary; Curtis McDowell, Parliamentarian; Kieth Gryder; Wes Moore; Aryele Maye; Gary Holmes; Bonique Morton; Bhooma Srinivasan; Corron Sanders; Anel Herrera; Warren Nagumo; Patricia Wynn; Desiree Slaybaugh.
Guests
Virtual: Janiece Upshaw; Rich Strong, Gabe Otteson; Felecia Epps; Syeda Jesmin; Rosa Barrett; Brenda Robertson; Faranak Zarnani.

I. Call to Order
Presiding Officer Munsterman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., established a quorum, and welcomed senators to the third meeting of the 2026–2027 academic year. Senators introduced themselves and identified their units and constituencies.
II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of September 4, 2026, were presented for approval. Nagumo moved to approve the minutes. Morton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (15-0-0).
III. Committee Assignments
Associate Presiding Officer Goodson presented a comprehensive and updated report about committee membership at UNTD. Goodson reported that most committee vacancies have been filled and that efforts were made to place faculty on their preferred committees. Members are still needed for the Faculty Grievance and AI Committees.

Given the diversity of AI use and policy by departments and disciplines, senators discussed the need for broad representation on the AI Committee with "as many faculty as possible." The AI Committee began as an ad hoc task force and has since evolved into an official committee. Senators emphasized that knowledge gained through the Task Force's work be carried forward into the new committee structure, including participation by former Task Force members.
IV. Report from the State Meeting
Faculty Senate officers Goodson and McDowell attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) Fall Conference on September 25-26, 2026, on behalf of the University. Both reported on the meeting, which brought together representatives of faculty senates from Texas colleges and universities to exchange ideas and share campus updates. Key themes of the two-day meeting included higher education resources in Texas, statewide policy and core curriculum revisions, and faculty concerns regarding administrative overreach and shared governance.
V. Faculty Awards

Presiding Officer Munsterman reported that review committees are being developed for the Faculty Senate Faculty Awards review. These awards are intended to honor faculty members for their contributions to the campus. Eligible faculty can be nominated by peers or students via the Faculty Senate Nominations webpage.

Award Categories include the following:

1-Excellence in Teaching: Honors dedication, instructional quality, and student impact in the classroom.

2-Excellence in Research: Recognizes scholarly output, creative work, and academic inquiry.

3-Excellence in Service: Acknowledges contributions to the University, Department, student mentorship, and the broader community.

4-Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year (Teaching): Highlights instructional excellence by a non-tenure-track/adjunct faculty member.

Senators questioned whether awards should be given if submitted applications are inadequate and if the portfolio requirements may be overly restrictive. Members noted that some nominated faculty choose not to participate because the application requirements result in portfolios resembling large promotion packets.

VI. Faculty/Staff Homecoming Tailgate

Presiding Officer Munsterman reported that Larry Frazier, representing the University's Values Committee, had requested that Faculty Senate members volunteer to help design and coordinate a Homecoming Tailgate event. Members were urged to volunteer and to promote attendance within their colleges and departments.

VII. Announcements

Presiding Officer Munsterman affirmed President Warren von Eschenbach's announcement, made earlier at the General Assembly meeting, that she is leaving the University to accept a private-sector law position. This change in Munsterman's employment status, now designated as adjunct faculty, prohibits her from continuing to serve as Presiding Officer of the Senate. In her absence, Iftekhar Amin, Professor of Criminal Justice and Sociology, has been appointed Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate.

Munsterman also reiterated reports from the September meeting that faculty access to Turnitin, while prohibited for AI detection, will continue for the purpose of evaluating textual similarities in student writing.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.