

# **MINUTES**

## **Texas AAUP-AFT Spring 2025 Statewide Meeting**

February 22, 2025, 9:00am-1:00pm  
Hybrid Meeting

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### **I. New Business**

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**9:00-9:25am** Welcome, Jim Klein, Past President and Brian Evans, President, [aaup.texas@gmail.com](mailto:aaup.texas@gmail.com)

Introductions of Attendees

Brian Evans – went over social media sites associated with TXAAUP-AFT

Minutes from Fall 2024 TX AAUP-AFT Conference

Motion and second. Approved (1 abstention).

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Tatum – TXAAUP-AFT will give a \$300 development grant for new AAUP chapters. Contact Brian Evans or Lynn Tatum.

TXAAUP-AFT reserves have fluctuated around \$3.000. Balance is \$29,150.

Amanda Garcia introduced that she is the higher ed organizer for TXAAUPAFT

Seth Batiste – President of TACT

Pat Heinzelman – President of TFA

## **9:25-9:35am**

OFR Presentation and Q&A – The TXAAUP-AFT-OFR presented on faculty rights and when to contact outside help. When in doubt, contact OFR at [txconfaaup-facultyrepresentation@proton.me](mailto:txconfaaup-facultyrepresentation@proton.me)

## **9:35-9:45am - Break**

## **9:45-10:00am**

Trinity University and UTPB have new chapters.

Brian Evans: Membership has increased 33% in the past year.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION: Brian Evans, Polly Strong, Beaman Floyd**

For testifying at a hearing at state legislature, plan on an all-day event.

## **89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

Dr. Evans provided tips for explaining about Academic Freedom and Shared Governance, and that SACSCOC does not allow for closing of academic programs without prior SACSCOC approval.

Dr. Evans presented the members of the K-12 and Higher Ed legislative committees.

Mr. Floyd – Currently tracking 133 bills. There has been an avalanche of bills. There may be 3000 bills over the next 3 weeks. Advocating is a very personal process, and different legislators are different in who they will talk to. Some will only talk to people in their district, while others like to talk to people outside of their district. Talking to a legislator's staff member may be like talking to the legislator's brain. The Chief [of Staff] is the one who will listen the first time.

Dr. Strong – When testifying, discuss your commitment to your students and research. Show passion for education, Texas, etc. Try to get students and alumni to testify – legislators really listen to them.

Mr. Floyd – “Competitiveness” and “Resilience” are words the Legislature likes. Promote how to be competitive, we need shared governance – we need to collaborate. “We want Higher Ed in Texas to be the most competitive anywhere, which means Academic Freedom and Tenure.”

Dr. Strong – Academic Freedom – Freedom to learn, freedom to think... Promote that we are having issues recruiting and retaining the best faculty. “Intellectual Diversity” is also a term that involves academic freedom. Make case that students don’t want a narrow education.

Dr. Evans – Go talk to the legislator’s staff and ask to talk to who in the office is responsible for higher ed. Also realize that the staff can change during the legislative session. 30-minute meets are common. If can connect with the legislator how higher ed issues are connected to that legislator’s district. Trade associations and community groups may be a good place to correct.

### **12:36pm-12:57pm**

30 chapters total. Added 14 chapters, 4 more in the pipeline.

Dr. Evans – Which chapters have received guidance from their administrations if ICE comes to campus?

Some campuses administrations issued a list of rights, saying to call PD and legal counsel. Dorm spaces are private and also classrooms/offices/clinical spaces. Other colleges say to call the Chancellor and inform supervisors and ask for guidance. FERPA/HIPAA documents present in the room is an issue. Different institutional legal counsels are giving different information.

One school has worked to ensure an administrative panel for tenure summary dismissal.

### **Adjourned: 12:57pm**