

Northeast Texas Community College

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Humanities 129 & Microsoft Teams (Virtual attendance option)

Recorder: Ms. Rebecca Gardner, Secretary

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Ms. Jackie Johnston.

II. Roll Call

Attendance was confirmed via the faculty sign-in sheet and Microsoft Teams. A total of 31 faculty members and one public representative were present.

III. Previous Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2025

Previous Meeting Minutes posted in Blackboard were unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report had no updates or changes.

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. Elections (Leah Reagan) - Skipped; committee chair was not available to present updates.

b. Faculty Awards (Jennifer Sparks) - A reminder will be sent this spring for faculty award nominations. Nominators should include supporting examples and details beyond just a name. Recognized members will be honored at an upcoming board meeting.

c. Faculty Professional Development (Lesla Presley) - Melissa, Andrew Daniel, and Jodi Pack were thanked for their professional development work. An etiquette session was noted as very successful and informative. Recommend offering a similar session for all faculty and a separate one for students.

d. Student Scholarship (Julie Ratliff) - The first call for scholarship submissions is planned for the first week of February. Reminder calls will be sent after spring break.

Previously, submission numbers have been low. Faculty are encouraged to contribute to the Spackman Scholarship via paycheck deductions.

e. Ways and Means (Chantel Sokol) – No recent changes.

f. Safety and Security (Mandy Smith) - A recent safety drill revealed several needs and issues. Discussion covered the SaferWatch app; more information is expected soon. The committee will meet this spring to discuss the new app and related matters.

g. Student Awards (Melissa Fulgham) - The banquet is anticipated toward the end of April, likely on the second to last Tuesday of the month.

VI. Old Business

Faculty Senate President Course Reduction - A course reduction for the Faculty Senate President was approved. The reduction counts as one course load. The president will attend additional meetings, including safety meetings, to represent the faculty.

A recommendation to the Ways & Means Committee has been made to update current by-laws to reflect the approved FS President's teaching reduction.

VII. New Business

Proposal for Expanded Faculty Senate Membership - Proposal discussed to allow adjunct and librarian faculty to have senate membership. This change requires a policy proposal to be presented to the board.

- Rebecca Gardner motioned that a recommendation, to allow adjunct faculty and librarians be permitted membership in the Faculty Senate organization, be presented to at the next Board of Trustees meeting. Sarah Witfield seconded.

VII. Announcements

- a. Engineering Roundtable - Event for high school juniors and seniors interested in engineering will be held on February 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the Watley. College students are also welcome. Connects students with local engineering professionals and industrial technicians.
- b. TCCTA Conference - Conference will take place February 18–20.
- c. Dr. Doug Ritchie is running for TCCTA secretary; members are encouraged to vote.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Ratliff and seconded by Jill Deitz at 13:50 pm.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Gardner

Secretary, Faculty Senate

Northeast Texas Community College

Date Prepared: January 18, 2026