



Temple College Faculty Council Vision for 2025–2026: Embracing Opportunities & Facing Challenges Together

Faculty Council is the official organization providing representation for faculty members at Temple College. We exist as a group effort to promote the best interests of Temple College, its faculty individually and collectively, and the community.

Faculty Council Report to the Temple College Board of Trustees Jan. 26, 2026

I. News

A. As part of the Leopards Learn Conference, Faculty Council organized a Great Ideas for Teaching Students (i.e., GIFTs) session, which consists of brief presentations designed to be of practical use. Following is a list of participants and descriptions of GIFTs shared during the session.

- Rebecca Sader—"Cowabunga! Thesis Statements are Easy!" Professor Sader's GIFT uses the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to create a thesis statement for a persuasive paper, covering the process from brainstorming about the topic, narrowing the topic, and drafting a thesis statement, to revising the thesis.
- Melissa Green—"Less Intimidating, More Approachable" Professor Green's GIFT introduces simple ways to increase communication, interest, and academic collegiality in the classroom, all while meeting students at their level.
- Christine Simon—"Professional Interview Assignment" Dr. Simon's GIFT asks students to interview a professional in the field of Child Psychology to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with different roles, which helps students connect theoretical knowledge with real-world practices.

B. TCCTA should release the annual Faculty Salary Survey within the month. Last year, it was not published until January 23. Previously, it had been released much earlier. I hope to report on this during the February meeting.

II. Committee Updates

A. Barnhart Award Selection Committee (Ray Stockstad, Chair): The Barnhart Award Selection Committee will be soliciting nominations for next year's Barnhart winner starting this semester.



- C. Elections Committee (Ray Stockstad, Chair):** Beginning no later than April 1 and concluding no later than April 30 of each academic year, the Elections Committee will supervise the nominations and election of the Faculty Council MALs and committee members.

Dr. Ponce will appoint additional MALs and the President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer annually from among the current members of Faculty Council, no later than April 30, to assume office the following academic year. The Elections Committee may provide Dr. Ponce with a list of nominees for consideration no later than April 1.

- D. Faculty Advancement Committee (Kerry Bekkedahl, Chair):** To date, the committee has approved awards totaling \$5,294.34, with \$2,705.66 remaining for disbursement:

- Lily Penfold \$750
- Derek Mudd \$750
- Melissa Green \$750
- Nathan Siegel \$750
- Prudence York-Hammons \$750
- Brice Olivier \$529.34
- Aurora Wold-Krogmann \$750
- Reid Echols \$265

- E. Faculty Concerns (Melissa Parker, Chair):** Melissa Parker has replaced Bryce Olivier as committee chair.

- F. Faculty Development Leave Grant (Kerry Bekkedahl, Chair):** Faculty Development Leave Grant applications are due **Feb. 1st**.

- G. Faculty Orientation Group (Kimberley Clawson, Chair):** New faculty were provided swag bags and invited to the Faculty Council lunch meeting.

- H. Satellite and ISD Campuses (Michelle McCullough, Chair):** The committee chair and faculty council president attended the dual credit ISD counselors meeting during Welcome Week. The committee will be working with dual credit throughout the semester to help facilitate communication between ISDs and faculty.

- I. Social Committee (Sandra Melendez, FC Vice-President):** Sandra Melendez and committee members organized a successful holiday party and spring semester faculty council lunch meeting with food from Olive Garden. Leftovers were donated to the organization Feed Our Sheep.

- J. Ways and Means Committee (Ray Stockstad, Chair):** The committee is revising the annual faculty survey, which was last distributed in 2019, with plans to send out the survey at the end of the academic year.