



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

Faculty Senate Report to the Temple College Board of Trustees
June 15, 2026

I. News

- A.** The following faculty were elected to positions in Faculty Senate following the end of the spring semester:
- **Ray Stockstad**, Associate Vice President—Main Campus (FA26-SP28)
 - **Reid Echols**, Associate Vice President—Hutto Campus (FA26-SP27)
 - **Dan Brown**, Associate Vice President—Taylor Campus (FA26-SP28)
 - **Demeka Simmons**, Senator—Business & Career Professions (FA26-SP28)
 - **Heather Reeder**, Senator—Health Professions (FA26-SP28)
 - **Melissa Green**, Senator—Fine Arts (FA26-SP28)
- B.** The following elected faculty members will continue to serve on Faculty Senate for one more year:
- **Geoffrey Lewis**, Senator—Liberal Arts (FA25-SP27)
 - **Philip Friedman**, Senator—Natural Sciences (FA25-SP27)
 - **Elizabeth Barton**, Senator—Workforce Development (FA25-SP27)
- C.** TCCTA Salary Study Addendum:
- As faculty have pointed out to me, only 38 institutions have reported salaries to TCCTA this year, as opposed to 48 institutions who reported salaries last year. This means our average salary for 2024-2025 was ranked 22 out of **38 schools**, whereas our average salary for 2023-2024 was ranked 32 out of **48 schools**.

- I previously reported that we moved up 10 spots in rank (from 32 to 22) this year, but because the total number of schools reporting salaries decreased, a straightforward comparison is not possible.
 - There is a difference of approximately 8.8 percentage points between last year's rank and this year's rank.
 - Although we still moved up in rank, the move was not as drastic as I originally reported, and in both scenarios, there are still only 16 schools ranked below us.
- For additional information:
 - Out of 130 full-time faculty reported for 2023-2024, the lowest salary was \$51,557.00 and the highest was \$95,839.00.
 - Out of 134 full-time faculty reported for 2024-2025, the lowest salary was \$49,450 and the highest was \$97,756.

II. Committee Updates

A. Barnhart Committee (Erica Perrine, Chair):

- **Barnhart Award Graduation Speech, Chad Cryer, May 16, 2026**

I learned long ago that students don't care what you know, until they know that you care; and I've based my entire teaching philosophy around it. That is something I learned from my biology professors when I was a student here at Temple College 26 years ago.

It makes me extremely proud to be a part of the same institution and share this prestigious award with a man who helped inspire me to become a teacher myself. I'm speaking of Dr. Ed Morgan who won this award in 1996. I wish Ed could see me up here today, and maybe in some way he can.

Back then this moment felt like a distant goal. Receiving the Barnhart Award today reminds me I'm still on the right track.

But no one earns an award like this alone. I wouldn't be standing here without the support I get from my fellow Temple College employees.

Over the years I've had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from many brilliant minds, spanning multiple departments from across the college. Much of what I do would not be possible without their contribution.



Together we make each other stronger as we share the same goal: to have a positive impact on students and our community. There is no greater population we'd rather serve.

In many ways, my receiving this award is just a ripple effect of those professional relationships.

But today, the focus rightfully belongs to our graduates.

It's important for you to take time and celebrate this milestone. I wish I could tell you things get easier from here, but that isn't the case. Deadlines never go away, challenges keep coming, and life will always surprise you.

I'd like to offer a couple pieces of advice to help you stay grounded, keep growing, and make a lasting impact in your community.

First: Believe in yourself, because if you don't believe in yourself, no one else will.

And even if no one believes in you, that won't matter as long as you do. "Your belief in yourself is one of the most important factors in your future success."

Growing up, I had plenty of people tell me that "I'd never make it through college, or if I did, that I'd never use my degree for anything meaningful"; and I think that is a good reminder of how others can't always see your potential.

As you go through life, surround yourself with people who support your goals and challenge you to grow. The people around you will shape the person you become. Choose them wisely.

Second: Don't be afraid to fail. Too many people avoid failure by only pursuing things they already know they can do.

But real grow requires stepping into uncertainty. It means taking risks, stretching beyond your comfort zone, and understanding that failure, when paired with reflection, becomes wisdom.

You're not alone on this journey. Just like me you have a network of support behind you, my network is now part of your network. Together we make each other stronger. And I can see you've brought in quite a lot of additional support to this arena.

So let's remember: today is not proof that you have everything figured out. It's proof that you kept going.

Keep going, and the rest of your story will take care of itself!

Congratulations, Class of 2026!