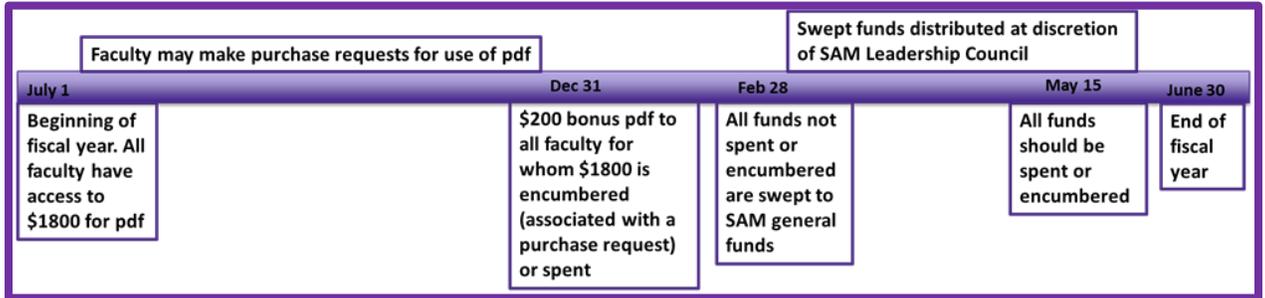


Consent Agenda for SAM Department Meeting
January 21, 2026

A. Announcements & Kudos

- Start planning for **peer evaluations** if needed for Regular Faculty Conferences
- Remember to have a plan to spend your **professional development funds (PDF)**! All funds not encumbered by Feb 28 will be swept to the department operating budget.
- PDF timeline AY 25-26:



- UW Faculty: **Your Financial Voice in Governance** with Secretary of the UW Faculty Senate on 27 January 1:00-2:00pm by Zoom. See 9 Jan email from uwtfac@UW
- **Faculty Council on Digital Accessibility (FCDA)**: Julia Eaton, Jack Vincent and Ruth Vanderpool will be our representatives on the FCDA. The charge of FCDA is to “shift the campus culture from reactive compliance to proactive accessibility, ultimately aiming to raise our institutional Canvas Ally accessibility score to **85%** by Spring 2026.” Jack, Ruth and Julie are training this quarter to serve as our “local” resources for achieving UW accessibility goals and will be coordinating training sessions for SAM faculty in collaboration with Maureen afterwards. Stay tuned.
- Welcome to our **new Department student assistant!** Nawal Halane (Nana) started Tuesday, January 20th. She will be working with us 15-19 hours per week doing social media management, assisting advisors, and other tasks to help the SAM Department. Nana is a senior Biomedical Science major, graduating in June 2027. She has been active in many organizations on campus since coming here as a freshman. She has served as Vice President and President of the MAPS student organization, was the social media coordinator for the Somali Students Association, and last quarter she worked as a research assistant. She has volunteered with Abubakr Masjid and East African Community Services, supporting community programs and educational initiatives and in her free time she likes to play guitar, go to cafes, go hiking, and read.
- **ACCESS in STEM NSF grant** has been renewed! Congratulations to the long list of SAM co-PIs, collaborators, and mentors.
- **Congratulations** to Alison Gardell, Jim Gawel, Sarah Alaei and their co-authors Jessica Buser-Young, Victoria Zalutskiy (UWT alumna), and Brandon R. Briggs on their [recent publication](#)

B. Curriculum Updates

- *New program proposal updates*

- *MS Environmental Science – external reviewer reports are due in early February, and we are on the Graduate School agenda for April*
- *BS SDS is now at the Seattle curriculum office and will go through a tri-campus review of the full proposal*
- *Retire course proposals: Keep a look out for our list of first round course retirements*
- *Course change proposals: None*
- *Program change proposals and related course change proposals:*

C. Advisor updates (Toni Woodman, Ryan Branchini)

- Brian Rauscher, Academic Services Assistant Director, first official day is January 21
- Spring registration starts on Feb 12th
- Advisors meeting with UWT Admissions next month to discuss collaboration around transfer planning tools

D. Updates from the Programs

Biomedical Sciences (Marc Nahmani, Leighann Chaffee):

- Added Biomed Major meeting February 10 at 12:30 in TPS 201 to work on the transition planning to our revised major.
- Ongoing curricular work: aligning core course learning objectives, provost “curricular clean up” course review

Environmental Science and Environmental Sustainability (Ed Kolodziej, EC Cline, Tom Koontz):

- Ongoing curricular work: provost “curricular clean up” course review, revised elective lists ready to submit pending resolution of TESC220, OneHealth proposal in development after student feedback

Mathematics/Statistics (Zaher Kmail, Olga Shatunova):

- SIAS is prioritizing the hiring of a TT Assistant Professor of Mathematics, with the search committee to be formed in the spring and continuing work into the fall and winter quarters of next academic year.
- The Dean’s deadline to make decisions over the list of potential courses to retire is Feb. 22nd, so faculty will use a portion of our Feb. 17th meeting to classify courses as retired, not retired, or “maybe”.
- Faculty discussed the course accessibility initiative, with plans for Maureen to organize lunch hour workshops with ideas on how to help faculty make their courses meet accessibility expectations.

E. Updates from Elected Campus Committees:

SIAS Faculty Council (Haley Skipper and Jim Gawel):

- Departments have been asked to discuss SIAS requirements for areas of inquiry and report back to FC on proposed revisions to the current requirement of 20 credits each in humanities, social sciences, and sciences/mathematics.

- Despite concerns voiced by SAM FC reps regarding the proposed budget cut breakdown favored by SIAS and its impact on SAM, the recommendation submitted by the Dean was submitted unchanged. Thus, the 3% budget cut model includes 2 SAM vacant lines and possibly a third (it is unclear where this 3rd line will come from).
- Hiring requests from SIAS placed SAM's request for an Assistant Teaching Professor in Mathematics as its top priority. The other 2 hiring requests submitted were from CAC and SOCS, respectively.

Executive Council (EC Cline and Allen Olson)

- *Bylawpalooza*: attend Faculty Assembly Jan 23rd, 1-3 PM to set priorities for bylaw revision—big changes to committee membership structure are under consideration
- Assessing workload equity across programs

Faculty Senate (Julia Eaton)

- The Class C Resolution Concerning Any Potential Agreement Between the University of Washington and the Federal Government passed, which was noted in the Faculty Assembly Chair's recent message to faculty. Discussion on the Class A Legislation on Promotion and Tenure: Elected Faculty Council Voting Hierarchy and Equitable Deliberation indicated that this legislation will not affect UW Tacoma. From the Dec 4 agenda "the Faculty Council on Tri-campus Policy is actively discussing potential Faculty Code amendments to clarify and/or modify the P&T procedures at the Bothell and Tacoma campuses." Next week's agenda has not yet been published.

Faculty Affairs (Morgan Heinz)

- Please send comments on Supporting UWT's International Faculty Report (see 24 November email from Dean Eschenbaum) to Morgan Heinz (hheinz@uw.edu)
- Proposal to modify current faculty code section 4 definition of "advisory liaison" to "advisory and advocacy body." Change will allow us to shift some current *ad hoc* committees to this framework for more permanency, starting with Research Advisory Group and potentially Budget Advocacy Council. Proposal going to code advisors, then to formal FAC vote, then to Faculty Assembly Executive Council.
 - Update of Research Advisory Council charge language to include advocacy on behalf of faculty scholarship, collaboration with Office of Research (and other relevant campus bodies), oversight of review of UWT campus research funds/awards with Office of Research assistance.
 - Update of Research Advisory Council membership language to broaden definition of research to include community-engaged scholarship, sponsored research, and creative works.
 - Expanded membership of Research Advisory Council from five to seven voting faculty members from at least 3 different units, plus ex-officio membership (Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Success, also Offices of Community Partnerships and Research as needed). Three year terms (max. 2 consecutive) elected by Faculty Assembly Executive Council.
- Upcoming request to Elected Faculty Council to conduct unit-level 60-90 minute discussions of faculty AI experiences, concerns, needs (instead of another all-faculty survey).

F. FYI SAM Representatives on Elected Faculty & Student Bodies:

Governing body	SAM representative	Term
Faculty Council (SIAS)	Haley Skipper	1 year (ends Spring 2026)
	Jim Gawel	2 years (ends Spring 2027)
Executive Council (UWT Faculty Assembly)	EC Cline	2 years (ends Spring 2027)
	Allen Olson	3 years (ends Spring 2028)
Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee (UWT Faculty Assembly Standing Committee)	Julie Masura	1 year (ends Spring 2026)
Faculty Senate	Julia Eaton	2 years (ends Sep 2027)
Faculty Affairs	Morgan Heinz (for SIAS)	3 years (ends Spring 2028)
ASUWT	Joshua Barnes (EnvSci student)	