Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2014


Absent: Farzad Deyhim (1), Oscar Diaz (1), Tim Fulbright (2), Deena L. Garza (2), Nirmal Goswami (2), Kuo-Jen Liao (1), Gerri Maxwell (1), Selahattin Ozcelik (2), Patricia Polatri (1), Emily Ralph (1), Nestor Rodriguez (2)

I. Call to Order 3:33 pm
   a. Quorum Call – Quorum Present

II. Approval of Minutes, September 2 Meeting. Motion: Senator Jacki Thomas; Second: Vice-President Amit Verma. Approved by voice vote.

III. Presentations
   a. Dr. Rex Gandy, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
      i. TAMUK enrollment had reached all time high mainly because of the new graduate students in the College of Engineering.
      ii. The current retention rate was 63.5%, which was the same as last year.
      iii. 16% of freshman students transferred to another institution after they had spent their first year in TAMUK.
      iv. SRI & student comments in annual faculty evaluation report – Provost Gandy asked the Faculty Senate for feedback and comments.

   b. Dr. Mohamed Abdelrehman, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
      i. There was an error in the agenda.
      ii. Dr. Abdelrehman stated that the purpose of his presentation was to introduce the multi-college interdisciplinary graduate programs in TAMUK.
      iii. There were universities which offered multi-college interdisciplinary graduate programs. For example, Texas Technical University had interdisciplinary studies for graduate students.
iv. It was a single degree but involved multiple disciplines.
v. The Procedure Chart showed how the graduate programs would be approved. The University Graduate Curriculum Committee would review and/or approve the proposal. Then, the proposal would be sent to the Graduate Council for reviews and approval.
vi. There would be no department involved because the program was broader than the dean's office.
vii. Ph.D. in STEM would involve the Colleges of Arts & Science, Education and Engineering.

viii. Each college would approve the courses. The credits and funds allocated to the colleges depended on the number of courses taught by the faculty.
ix. Graduate Council would vote on the procedures and policies.
x. There would be narratives or descriptions about the procedures in addition to the Procedure Chart.

xi. Dr. Abdelrehman asked the Faculty Senate for support and comments.
xii. Motion: Senator Cathy Downs moved that the Senate offered support to the Procedure for Approving Multi-College Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs.

xiv. The motion was seconded by Senator Edward Butterworth.

IV. Report of Officers

a. Senate President George Vargas: Meeting(s) with President Tallant and Provost Gandy
   i. PricewaterhouseCoopers Report on Texas A&M University System affected different universities in the TAMUS

   ii. President Vargas will send out the link to the report

   iii. Overuse of money in College Station; hiring freeze of administrator positions

   iv. There may be re-assignment of course load in Spring 2015 for those faculty members who shared the workload as administrators

   v. Enrollment Issues - space was limited on the campus; parking was limited

   vi. President Tallant was thinking about giving bonus to faculty either in December or January. He would like to make the commitment of 3-4% raise.

V. Old Business

a. Senate Review of SRI
   i. SRI Task Force Final Recommendations was made on April 1, 2013

   ii. However, there was no follow-up in the Challoo administration

   iii. There were concerns about anonymity and the reversed items

   iv. Motion: Senator Cathy Downs moved to ask the higher-up administrators how and why the comments were used

   v. Senator Downs later retracted her motion and made a new motion: Faculty Senate will form a committee to make recommendations.
vi. This motion was seconded by Senator Edward Butterworth
vii. President George Vargas suggested inviting Provost Gandy to address the questions, such as:
   1. At what level is this being requested, System, THECB, Legislature?
   2. What purpose do they intend the use of this information?

VI. New Business
   a. Senator Emily Ralph: Campus Safety
      i. Senator Ralph was absent.
   b. Honorary Degree Nomination: Dr. Lauro Cavazos
      i. There should be a committee to decide the recipient.

VII. Announcements
   a. New Senators - Senators Valerie Bartelt, Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman, and Jody Briones
   b. Elections of Colleges of Arts & Sciences & Engineering - ballots were not counted yet
   c. Name plaques – President George Vargas reminded the senators to put down their names on the list if they needed a name plaque.
   d. Committee on committees 2014-2015 membership:
      Senator Ambrose Anoruo – College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Human Sciences
      Senator Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman – Jernigan Library
      Senator Valerie Bartelt – College of Business Administration (chair)
      Senator Jody Briones – College of Arts & Sciences
      Senator Lisa McNair – College of Education & Human Performance
      Senator Joseph Sai – College of Engineering

VIII. Adjournment 4:45 pm
      Next meeting: Tuesday November 4, 2014