


Texas A&M University-
Kingsville Faculty Senate Meeting
Agenda December 1, 2020

- I. Call to order/Quorum call
- II. Presentations
 - a. Provost Lou Reinisch
- III. Approval of minutes, November 10, 2020 meeting
- IV. Report of Officers
 - a. Emergency Management Committee – Ms. Christine Radcliff
 - b. Senate reports – Dr. Ari Sherris, Senate President
 - c. Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure and Promotion - Dr. Patrick Mills
- V. Old Business (see pages below with jpgs)
 - a. Constitutional Amendment for Electronic Ballots - 2nd vote
 - b. Motion: Implementation of the rank of "Distinguished Professor"
 - c. Motion: Retiree benefits video
 - d. Motion: Reserved seating at commencement
 - e. Motion: Ability to link retiree e-mail account to personal e-mail accounts
- VI. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Committees
 - b. Election Committee
 - c. Resolution & By-laws Committee
- VII. Reports from Committees Reporting to the Senate
 - a. Administrator Evaluation Committee
 - b. Annual Faculty Lecture Committee
 - c. Piper Award Committee
 - d. Faculty Evaluation Committee
 - e. Faculty Benefits Committee
 - f. Policy Revision Committee
 - g. Task-Force on Faculty Handbook Changes
- VIII. New Business 
- IX. Announcements
 - a. Library fund allocations - FY2021
- X. Adjournment

Motion - Constitutional Amendment for Electronic Ballots (2nd Vote)

MOTION: That Article II, Section 3 of the *Constitution of the General Faculty of Texas A&M University-Kingsville* be updated using the proposed language below, which would allow electronic ballots to be the new method used for Faculty Senate elections.

Article II. THE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP, ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 3. ELECTIONS

(a) The Election Committee will develop an electronic eligibility form and ballot. The form will collect the following information from voters: name, email, department, and faculty rank. Upon submission of the eligibility form, voters will be directed to a ballot. The ballot will have settings established to assure anonymity.

(b) For departmental/unit elections the Election Committee Chair shall announce by email to the Department Chair/Unit Director the number of positions on the Senate to be elected by that faculty for the upcoming term and the names of the faculty not eligible for election. The Election Committee Chair shall request of each Department Chair/Unit Director a list of nominees be returned to him or her. Upon receipt of the lists, nominees become candidates.

(c) For Senators-at-large, the Election Committee Chair shall announce by email to the College Dean the number of positions on the Senate to be elected by that faculty for the upcoming term and the names of the faculty not eligible for election. The Election Committee Chair shall request of each College Dean a list of nominees be returned to him or her. Upon receipt of the lists, nominees become candidates.

Motion - Constitutional Amendment for Electronic Ballots (cont.)

(d) An email shall be sent to all eligible faculty voters with instructions for accessing, filling out, and submitting their electronic ballots. Faculty members may vote only once.

(e) At no time during the election process shall faculty names or identifiable information be collected other than to verify voting eligibility. Information collected will be limited to whom the candidate voted for and the time of the vote. In the event that an eligible faculty member will not have access to internet resources, the Election Committee Chair shall make provisions for casting absentee ballots.

(f) In the event of a tie, the Election Committee Chair will seek to mediate an outcome with the candidates in question. If no clear winner can be determined, a special run-off election will be held to determine the winner.

(g) The Election Committee shall record votes. The tally of votes for each candidate shall be forwarded to the Faculty Senate office and remain on file. The voting record shall become the basis for eligibility to fill Senate vacancies.

FACULTY BENEFITS

Richard Miller (Chair)

Natasha Bell
Colleen Ferguson
Richard Hartwig
David Hicks
Brent Kinghorn
Doreen Kinkel
Marie Lassmann
Mandolyn Peterson
Jacqueline Thomas

MOTION:

- Implement the rank of “Distinguished Professor” that would be a promotion available to Professors with X years of experience in that position, based on performance. I have attached a full proposal for this benefit.

FACULTY BENEFITS

Richard Miller (Chair)

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David Hicks
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Doreen Kinkel
Marie Lassmann
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Jacqueline Thomas

MOTION:

- Request that HR and MarComm create an in-service video that outlines the range of benefits provided to retirees so that it can be accessed well prior to retirement and also after retirement as a refresher and includes frequently asked questions.

Rationale: Several retired faculty have stated that they are somewhat in the dark as to what their university benefits are.

FACULTY BENEFITS

Richard Miller (Chair)

Natasha Bell
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Mandolyn Peterson
Jacqueline Thomas

MOTION:

- Set aside a section of the bleachers near the stage for retired faculty and staff to sit. This section could also be used for distinguished guests like the Mayor or State Senator. Also, invite Emeriti faculty to walk at Commencement with the regular faculty, if they wish.

FACULTY BENEFITS

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Jacqueline Thomas

MOTION:

- Create a linkage from the retiree e-mail accounts to retirees' personal accounts because many retirees seldom check their retiree accounts.