

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 7, 2012

Present: Michelle Garcia, Mike Daniel, Jean Escudero, Nestor Sherman, Aden Ahmed, Angel Ball, Santa Barraza, Sajid Bashir, Alicia Cavazos-Garza, Mark Cortez, Horacio Duarte, Don Fisher, Norma Guzman, Alice Hempel, Darin Hoskisson, Melody Knight, Steven Lukefahr, Tanner Machado, Alvaro Martinez, Jim Norwine, Greg Sanders, Harmeet Singh, Dazhi Sun, Eric Swartz, Roger Tuller, Amit Verma, Priti Verma, Zak Watson

I. Meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Michelle Garcia at 3:32 pm.

II. Minutes of December 6, 2011 were accepted unanimously.

III. Presentations:

Duane Gardiner: presented on teaching load credits. The special committee under his chairmanship has finished with their proposal (which he handed out) and the governing bodies will now evaluate the proposal. Proposed changes include a 1.5 factor for TCL for doctoral level courses (so 3 hour course would be 4.5 hours). Additionally, the committee has proposed that stacked courses (4000/5000) would earn TCL for both courses if each course makes individually. Banked hours can be saved for 3 semesters instead of 2 semesters to be used for release. These proposals along with many others need to be discussed and approved.

Provost Gandy:

- Report that enrollment and SCH are up 5.5% for the spring semester compared to last spring semester. Fall semester 2011 was only up 2.5% compared to fall semester 2010 which affected our budget. Last year's retention (fall 2010 to fall 2011) was 55%. Additionally, retention from fall 2010-spring 2011 was 82%. Retention from fall 2011-spring 2012 was 86%. This 4% increase should result in a significant increase in our fall 2011-fall 2012 retention rates.
- Coordinating Board is looking at low producing programs again. Previously there were 16 of our programs considered "low," and half of these were eliminated. The present review indicates that we have 2 low performers which are the B.S. in Chemistry and M.A. in Mathematics. The Provost and President will meet with the appropriate people and review the programs. The Coordinating Board has the following standards to evaluate programs and is looking to change the standards as shown below:

Program	Present Standard	Proposed Standard
B.S.	5	8
M.A.	3	5
Ph.D.	2	3

If these new standards are implemented, our university will be seriously damaged losing possibly 17 programs.

- Physics was one of the programs that was eliminated; however, several other universities also lost theirs. These universities are working together (with TAMU-K) to start a consortium on physics including video conferencing, etc.

IV. Old Business:

- Darin Hoskisson reported that by the end of February new department elections should occur followed by the at-large elections. Therefore, by April all of the seats will be filled and “retiring” senators will be replaced.
- Election of By-Laws Committee: The Arts and Sciences representative position was filled by Sajid Bashir.
- The Senate needed to vote again on the previously approved changes to the constitution. During the December 7, 2011 meeting Resolution 1 was voted on and passed resulting in the change of Article 2, section 9. Additionally, Resolution 2 was voted on and passed resulting in a change of Article 2, section 10.b. The vote was taken again and both Resolutions were approved so the constitution may be changed.

V. New Business:

- Amit Verma reported that the administrators’ evaluation proposal is ready. Working with OIR, questions have been modified based on OIR suggestions. The format for the evaluations will be similar to the SRI with notification via email. The goal is to vote on this in March so the new President Mike Daniel may implement the evaluations in May.
- SRI task force will be formed to change the SRI implementation due to problems with previous semesters (timing of closure and number of times students can evaluate a professor). The committee will also re-evaluate the questions that are asked on the SRI. The committee will aim to have a proposal prepared by the April meeting but the changes will not be implemented this semester. The following senators are on the committee: Greg Sanders, Don Fisher, Kathleen Rees, Harmeet Singh and Alicia Cavazos-Garza.
- Teaching loads are a concern that President Michelle Garcia will discuss with the President and Provost. It was moved and accepted that the following statement be sent to the President regarding teaching loads for instructors: “The Senate strongly recommends that the Administration revisit the new 5 lecture load for lecturers and permit lecturers to receive overload pay.”

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.