

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 1, 2011

Present: Michelle Garcia, Mike Daniel, Jean Escudero, Nestor Sherman, Aden Ahmed, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Angel Ball, Santa Barraza, Mark Cortez, Horacio Duarte, Don Fisher, Norma Guzman, Alice Hempel, Darin Hoskisson, Don Jones, Kim Jones, Alvaro Martinez, Gerri Maxwell, Jim Norwine, Greg Sanders, Greta Schuster, Dazhi Sun, Eric Swartz, Roger Tuller, Amit Verma, Zak Watson,

- I. Meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Michelle Garcia at 3:35 pm.
- II. Minutes of October 4, 2011 were unanimously accepted with amendments to reflect attendance.
- III. Presentations:
  - President Tallant addressed several issues:
    - a. Discussed *designated tuition* which the university set and the board approves compared to the *state tuition* which is a constant for state universities. State tuition goes to Austin and is returned to universities based on formula funding. Presently, this amount is based on SCH from 2 years previous. Year 2012 is a base year so the SCH for that year will be used for the next 2 years of formula funding.
      - Enrollment was up 12% but we lost money because graduate student enrollment was down and those classes cost more.
      - The coordinating board is changing funding models and will hold universities responsible for the success of the students based on retention and graduation rates. Ten percent of the funding will still be based on formula funding.
      - Texas A&M committee (President Tallant is the co-chairman) is working on the funding situation. TAMUK has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country; however we have improved considerably since 1999 when it was 4% for 4 year graduation rates. President Tallant would like to see funding based on improvement rather than a fixed number. TAMUK's 4 year graduation rate for 2011 was 18% so there is improvement every year.
      - The new funding formula may be implemented January 21, 2012 so it will affect the incoming class of 2013.
      - There is a bill that would require students that are considered remedial to attend 2 year schools prior to being admitted to a 4 year university. First time in school history that students' tuition is the university's primary source of income. Usually it is the state and state is #2 ahead of revenue like sponsored programs and grants.
      - Why are our rates so low? TAMUK has more men than women and traditionally women are better students. As stated, 65% of incoming freshmen are remedial.

Robert Paulson and Lee Moore discussed the Luminus portal.

a. The Luminus portal will be available in January 2012. The advantage of this system is that it has better communication and better SSO. The faculty senate or other groups could use it as a "Group" for discussions and documents. This would not be accessible to anyone but only those who are members. This main function of this would be to serve groups and committees not courses. Another advantage is that it would reduce mass emails. Some senators expressed concern that we already have these functions with Blackboard and believe that it would be one more item to be checking for information and it is becoming a bit redundant and overwhelming.

IV. Old Business:

a. Administrators' Evaluations': Amit Verma reported that the committee is finalizing the questionnaire and proposal. Questions regarding dispersal via internet or paper still exist.

V. New Business:

a. Summer salary cuts: Dr. Gandy and Ms. Golightly discussed the need for a \$300,000 cut which is approximately 15% of the \$2 million of summer salary. There was discussion that is ongoing regarding fairness of pay/cuts and comparing assistant professors and full professor salaries. More proposals are being considered and we need to make a decision at the next faculty senate meeting.

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.