

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 4, 2011

Present: Michelle Garcia, Mike Daniel, Jean Escudero, Nestor Sherman, Hayder Abdul-Razzak, Aden Ahmed, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Saj Bashir, Rajab Chaloo, Mark Cortez, Horacio Duarte, Dazhi Sun, Norma Guzman, Darin Hoskisson, Kim Jones, Melody Knight, Vincent Louis, Steven Lukefahr, Tanner Machado, Gerri Maxwell, Leonel Medellin, Michael Muzheve, Jim Norwine, Kathleen Rees, Ryan Rhoades, Greg Sanders, Jack Shorter, Harmeet Singh, Eric Swartz, Roger Tuller, Roberto Vela-Cordova, Amit Verma, Priti Verma, Zak Watson, Santa Barraza

- I. Meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Michelle Garcia at 3:30 pm.
- II. Minutes of May 3, 2011 were unanimously accepted
- III. Hand-out materials:
 1. Report on the progression of the Academic Administrator Evaluation.
 2. Faculty Constitution
 3. Agenda
 4. Minutes from Sept. 6 2011 senate meeting
 5. Dr. Rajab Chaloo's committee worksheet.
- IV. Presentations:

Rex Gandy, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs addressed several issues:

 - a. Fiscal year end report reflects a \$28.4 million in external grants and contracts. This is up 24% from 2010 and up 104% from 3 years ago. The goal is 30 million by 2014.
 - b. 20th class day roster: Enrollment is up 2.5%. Predicted was 7% increase so there is a strain on the budget. The SCH are up by 3.5% so students are taking more classes which is good. The spring semester enrollment increase is the new target and discussions with Mr. Lujan are ongoing.
 - c. Personnel: Todd Lucas will be the chair of the search committee for the library director which will begin in the spring semester.
 - d. First year retention: Counting the students from fall 2010 to the fall 2011, the retention rates have fallen to 55.7%. The 2009-2010 rate was 58% and the decrease may reflect the Delmar program's influence on retention. The Delmar program was eliminated due to negative feedback from students who did not like participating in a community college at TAMUK.
 - e. CIS Help Desk: The desk is now located in the library and we have added help using Sunguard call line. Now we have assistance at 24/7 but the service on campus has not changed.
 - f. Questions fielded for Dr. Gandy: Gerry Maxwell asked about salary recovery program for 9 months. Twenty-five percent of buyout will come back to the PI. Last year \$250,000 worth of salary was bought out. Roberto Vela Cordova inquired about non-tenure track professors submitting grants and it was stated by the Provost if the professor meets the requirements of the funding institution it is fine.
- V. Old Business:
 - a. Faculty Handbook: The university was audited in the spring and was cited for having 2004 Handbook material. The new version is online and faculty and staff are encouraged to review the document. Any concerns should be reported by

November 1st of each year to the president of the faculty senate. The executive committee will discuss the relevance of the concerns and they will be discussed in the Senate. Each spring the faculty senate will vote on additions and editions for the handbook. This will result in keeping the handbook updated and avoiding the necessity of completely revising the handbook.

- b. Piper Award Committee: Tanner Machado reported that he has filled the Piper Award committee.
- c. Darin Hoskisson has carried out the elections to fill the empty Senate seats and to replace those senators who do not attend the meetings. Nine of the seats have been filled. Some newly elected senators have decided not to accept their seat on the Senate but we will not carry out another election now.
- d. Amit Verma has been working on the administrator's evaluation. We need to determine how this will be implemented (paper vs. internet). The first proposal will hopefully be completed by February.

VI. New Business:

- a. Resolution and By-laws Committee: Don Jones was voted as a new member representing College of Education.
- b. Standing Committees: there were 16 "retired" standing committees that the Senate voted to determine if they should be re-established. The following committees were voted upon and it was accepted unanimously that they be re-established.
 - 1. Alumni Awards Committee
 - 2. Ethics Committee
 - 3. Piper Award Committee
 - 4. Annual Faculty Lecture Committee: should meet in the spring
 - 5. Faculty Grievance Committee
 - 6. Benefits Committee
 - 7. Academic Administrators Evaluation Committee
 - 8. Finance Review Committee
 - 9. University Curriculum Committee
 - 10. Faculty Handbook Review Committee
 - 11. Faculty Evaluation Committee
 - 12. University Admissions and Academic Standards Committee
 - 13. Regents Professor Award Committee*
 - 14. Educational Technology Committee

*The Regents Professor Award was previously referred to as "Regents Professor Service Award". It was motioned to change the name and this passed.

The following committees were not approved.

- 1. Faculty Professional Growth Committee
 - 2. Information Clearinghouse Committee
- c. Faculty Senate Dinner: tentative date suggested with the Wednesday, October 26.
 - d. Emeritus Award: the committee met and had 2 recommendations for this award. There are concerns regarding the guidelines for the system compared to TAMUK guidelines.

1. Not clear on any written rule that states that only 3 Emeritus positions can be awarded each year.
 2. Horacio Duarte moved to recommend that the Regents professor become Emeritus upon retirement. The vote was 36 Yeas, 1 Nay, and 1 Abstention. (I
- VII. Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.