

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 6, 2011

Present: Michelle Garcia, Mike Daniel, Nestor Sherman, Aden Ahmed, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Angel Ball, Mark Cortez, Horacio Duarte, Don Fisher, Darin Hoskisson, Kim Jones, Melody Knight, Steven Lukefahr, Tanner Machado, Gerri Maxwell, Michael Muzheve, Jim Norwine, Kathleen Rees, Greg Sanders, Jack Shorter, Roger Tuller, Amit Verma, Zak Watson, Alicia Cavazos-Garza, Leonel Medellin

- I. Meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Michelle Garcia at 3:40pm.
- II. Minutes of May 3, 2011 – Upon reaching quorum at approximately 4:30 p.m., the Faculty Senate approved the minutes as read. There were no corrections.
- III. Report of Senate Committees: President Garcia requested reports from the following as below and provided:
 - a. Committee on Committees – President Garcia reported and thanked Dr. Tanner Machado for his extra effort in filling all the committees. Dr. Machado was able to fill 10 committees. Environmental Management Advisory Committee is searching for two students.
 - b. Election Committee – Dr. Darin Hoskisson reported that a couple of elections had been held to fill positions vacated since last spring and those public ballot counting would be forthcoming with invitations to the faculty to attend those events.

IV. Presentations

- a. Provost Gandy shared various points of interest with the Faculty Senate
 1. The Faculty Handbook had been approved and desired that the Faculty Senate assist in devising an annual process of keeping the handbook up to date. This is aligned to work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Any changes to the handbook can be submitted at any time to the Faculty Senate, a timeline would be imposed with review and update of the handbook each Spring.
 2. Budget update provided regarding six million dollar cut. Cuts were alleviated by a good response to the voluntary separation program and a hiring freeze that had been imposed in the spring.
 3. Dr. Nancy King Sanders and Dr. Duane Gardiner will be making departmental visits discussing student academic success.
 4. First year retention rates and graduation rates are key indicators of student academic success in regard to SACS accreditation.
 5. Other initiatives including every freshman being paired with a successful jr/sr at TAMUK has been implemented.
 6. A search has been launched for a Library Director.
 7. The current Dean of Arts and Sciences position recently vacated may be divided into two colleges; that is under review this semester.
 8. The system Teaching Excellence awards will be given this year for the last time.
 9. Summer salary cut of 15 percent was approved in the budget cutting process but the actual plan for how that rolls out has yet to be executed but needs to be done soon in light of summer planning. Faculty purchasing their summer with grant funding would not be cut by 15% according to a question asked of Dr. Gandy. Another question regarding looking at a 5 day summer week was asked and Dr. Gandy said it could be looked at.

10. Enrollment is up 100-200—students which is about 1 ½ percent. Other entities/universities in the area are experiencing similar flat enrollment trends.
11. For the first time this fall, applicants had been denied admission to the university. Some factors affecting this could include reduction in Pell Grant funding and of note, 80% of our students are on some kind of similar funding.

V. Old Business –

1. Faculty handbook suggestions need to be submitted to faculty senate president by Nov. 1st for Exec. Committee evaluation.

VI. New Business –

1. Administrator evaluation and that committee need to begin their work soon.
2. General Faculty Constitution
 - a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Faculty Lecture committee. Motion passed unanimously
 - b. A motion was made and seconded to remove a single reference to University College in the Faculty constitution since the college no longer exists. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Announcements

1. Academic Dean's Council minutes will be posted on the provost and faculty senate website.
2. Dr. Tallant will be hosting an evening event for the Faculty Senate probably in October.
3. Senate president announced that President Tallant is interested in the morale of the faculty, hence, the senate president recorded comments with regard to morale and factors affecting morale. Senate president will discuss morale with Tallant and Gandy at the weekly meeting.
3. The next Faculty Senate meeting is October 4, 2011

VIII. Adjournment

12. Motion and second was made to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 4:40 pm.