

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 1, 2014

Present: Aden Ahmed, , Apurba Bhattacharya, Edward Butterworth, Rajab Chaloo, John Cicala, David Cutton, Oscar Diaz, Farzad Deyhim, , Tim Fulbright, Jeff Glick, James Glusing, Nirmal Goswami, Norma Guzman, Kendra Huff, Lorraine Killion, Alvaro Martinez, Geri Maxwell, Lisa McNair, Selahattin Ozcelik, , Victoria Packard, Ali Pilehvari, Randy Powell, Hans Schumann, Greta Schuster, Dazhi Sun, George Vargas, Amit Verma, Rongdong Wang, Colin Wark, Zak Watson, Kenneth Williams, Randall Williams

Absent: Bart Ballard (1), Karen Furgerson (1), Don Fisher (4), Dean Ferguson (9), Patricia Polastri (3), Manuel Soto (6), Jacki Thomas (1)

- I. Call to order 3:31
 - a. Quorum call
Quorum Present
- II. Approval of minutes, March Meeting. Motion: Senator Williams. Second: Senator Schumann. Approved by voice vote.
- III. Presentations
 - a. PRESIDENT Steven Tallant
 - i. Thanks to the Senate for their hard work in this busy year: This Senate communicated well with administration and established a good working relationship between faculty and administration. The parties didn't always agree on everything, but we aren't supposed to; together we kept things moving forward for this institution.
 - ii. University Update: Since the President started in Spring of 2009, this university has grown 48%. As we continue to grow the budget priorities are raises and hiring faculty.
 - iii. Questions: Senator Verma asked if faculty should expect another raise soon. The President responded: that's a fair question. There is a legitimate chance for another modest raise in the fall or in January, depending on the budget process. The plan is to give as many raises as we can as often as we can.
 - b. PROVOST Rex Gandy
 - i. Reiteration of the President's thanks: Of his tenure at TAMU-K, this senate has had more thrown at it than any other, primarily because of the upcoming SACS review, and it has done a great job.
 - ii. QEP Update: Standardized tests show that writing is one of the weakest areas across campus. The QEP is for a writing center, whose pilot is being planned for next year by a team. A full proposal based on the pilot is expected a year from now. This will be part of the SACS review.
 - iii. Flat rate tuition: The state requires that institutes of higher learning provide a plan that would allow students to lock in tuition rates for their four years of attendance. We will be handling that plan at the campus level and as a result we

will combine all of our student fees into one university service fees. Students will henceforth pay tuition and the university service fee.

- iv. "Customer service" in job advertisements: We were recently featured in an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* about the language of customer service in academia. The decision has been made to remove the requirement that the phrase "provide excellent customer service" be included in faculty job advertisements. The Provost also charged the new Faculty Senate to come up with a more agreeable phrase that would reflect the idea that students need to be treated with respect, that will indicate faculty are dedicated to making sure students have a good experience at the university. Discussion ensued.

c. VICE PRESIDENT Duane Gardiner

- i. Thanks: Dr. Gardiner thanked the Faculty Senate for the pleasant experience he had working with them this year.
- ii. Council and Committee Handbook: The University has operated without such a handbook for six years; the completion of this important document is an achievement for this Senate. The deans met and agreed with the changes the Faculty Senate voted on last month. A number of expanded committee charges have been added by Senate President Chaloo, which have been accepted as friendly amendments. Dr. Gardiner urged the Senate to adopt the handbook.

IV. Report of Officers

a. Senate President Rajab Chaloo

- i. Faculty Senate Committee Charges for the Council and Committee Handbook: Senator Cicala moved to accept the Handbook with the newly inserted committee charges. Senator Goswami seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
- ii. SGA Resolution on a ban on "Texting While Driving on the Grounds of A&M-Kingsville": After vigorous discussion, Senator Schumann made a motion stating that the Faculty Senate supports Student Resolution 88-5 and concurs with SGA on the resolution. Senator Cicala seconded. The motion passed with three abstaining and one opposed.
- iii. Ad hoc committee on adjunct faculty/lecturer classroom evaluation form: Vice President Vargas, committee chair, presented a form to the Senate. After discussion, Senator Cicala moved to table the form and Senator Goswami seconded. The motion carried.

V. New Business

- a. Change of Senate: Outgoing Senate President Chaloo thanked the Faculty Senate for their work this year and passed the gavel to incoming Senate President Vargas at 4:17. Senate President Vargas presented Dr. Chaloo a plaque in recognition of his service as Faculty Senate President. Dr. Chaloo and other members of the Senate rotating off departed and newly elected Senators came forward.
- b. Quorum Call: Whether there was a quorum or not could be ascertained.