

**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**  
**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2015**

**Current Senators:**

Present: Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, Bart Ballard, Valerie Bartelt, Jody A. Briones, Daniel Burt, Edward J. Butterworth, Ruth Chatelain-Jardon, Farzad Deyhim, Oscar Diaz, James Glusing, Stan Hodges, Kendra Huff, Elizabeth Janzen, Lorraine Killion, Lisa McNair, Joseph Sai, Nestor Sherman, Jacki Thomas, George Vargas, Amit Verma, and Monica Wong-Ratcliff

Absent: John Chisholm (6), Rajan Lamichhane (2), Todd Lucas (4), Gerri Maxwell (6), and Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman (2)

**Newly Elected Senators:**

Present: Yahia Al-Smadi, Bart Ballard, Jon Baskin, Rajab Challoo, April Conkey, Christine Fiestas, Armando Ibanez, Melody Knight, Eliezer Louzada, Lifford McLaughlan, Richard Miller, David Ramirez, Kathleen Rees, Ryan Rhoades, and Nuri Yilmazer,

Absent: Fidel Hernandez, Don Jones, Brooke Mascagni, Pamela Wright, and Hueytzen Wu,

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Quorum Call 3:37 pm  
Quorum Present

**II. Approval of Minutes, March Meeting**

- a. Senator Kendra Huff moved to approve the minutes. Senator Ruth Chatelain-Jardon seconded.  
The motion was approved by voice vote.

**III. Presentations**

- a. Dr. Rex Gandy, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - i. Provost Gandy shared good news about funding: (a) TAMUK will receive funding because it has made the highest growth rate in Texas (34%). (b) TAMUK will receive cash instead of bonds to renovate the Bellamah Music Building. (c) TAMUK benefits from the Higher Education Funds. Every year TAMUK receives \$5 million.
  - ii. TAMUK will have a new strategic plan in the next few months. Dr. Duane Gardiner is chairing the committee. There are 35 members including faculty, staff, and students.

- iii. PricewaterhouseCooper Report arrived 2 weeks ago. Over the next six weeks, a committee will meet to respond to the report. The whole purpose of the initiative is to move funds from administration to academic.
- iv. Faculty handbook amendment – President Tallant and Provost Gandy think that vice-president and above should not be teaching and receive compensation.
- v. SRI Recommendations – Dr. Duane Gardiner has sent the SRI Recommendations to Senate President Vargas.
- vi. Search Committee for Provost – Randy Hughes is the chair of the committee. Job advertisement will go out very soon. There will be interviews held at the airport in June. 4 candidates will be selected to have interviews in TAMUK in July.
- vii. Legislature – There is a plan to construct a building that can hold 50-60 students on the current tennis court. The cost will be \$90 million. \$60 million is in the budget. But the money is not here yet.

## **VI. Report of Officers**

- a. President Vargas was not available to meet with President Tallant and Provost Gandy.
- b. Vice-President Verma gave a report on the luncheon with President Tallant and Provost Gandy (April 1, 2015).
  - i. There will be a raise of 4.5% in Fall 2015.
  - ii. There was a discussion about the amendment of the Faculty Handbook regarding allowing staff (director and up) to teach.
  - iii. The new SRI may be launched together with the existing SRI in Fall 2015 in order to conduct the beta test.

## **V. Old Business**

- a. SRI Recommendations
  - i. There was a discussion on SRI Recommendations.
  - ii. Senator Ambrose Anoruo made a motion to send the SRI Recommendations to all senators with revision. Senator Kendra Huff seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.
  - iii. Senator Polly Allred moved a motion to amend #4, which said “The instructor provided timely and frequent feedback on tests, reports, etc. to help students improve”, to “The instructor provided timely, frequent, and adequate feedback on assignments to help students improve.” The motion was seconded by Senator Elizabeth Janzen. The motion was approved by voice vote.
  - iv. Vice-President Amit Verma will send the revised SRI recommendations to all senators, who will take it back to their department and college to seek feedback from their colleagues.

- v. There may be a vote on the SRI Recommendations in the May 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting.
- b. Amendments to Faculty Handbook
- i. Senator Kendra Huff moved to amend the Handbook to include the exclusion of assistant vice president and up to receive extra compensation for extra compensation for extra assignments such as teaching, etc.
  - ii. Senator James Glusing seconded.
  - iii. The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Transition of newly elected senators
- b. There were 2 nominations for Executive Committee – College of Education & Human Performance and College of Arts & Sciences
  - i. Senator Monica Wong-Ratcliff was nominated to represent the College of Education
  - ii. Senator Richard Miller was nominated to represent the College of Arts & Sciences
- c. The 2015-2016 Faculty Senate Executive Committee members:
  - i. President Elect: Senator Rajab Challoo
  - ii. Parliamentarian: Senator Nestor Sherman
  - iii. Secretary: Senator Polly Allred
  - iv. College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Human Sciences: Senator Kathleen Rees
  - v. College of Arts & Sciences: Senator Richard Miller
  - vi. College of Education: Senator Monica Wong-Ratcliff
  - vii. College of Engineering: Senator Joseph Sai
  - viii. Committee on Committees: Senator Ruth Chatelain-Jardon

## **VII. Adjournment – 5 pm**

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2015