

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Present: Polly Allred, Valerie Bartelt, Jody Briones, Daniel Burt, Edward Butterworth, Ruth Chatelain-Jordon, James Glusing, Stan Hodges, Kendra Huff, Lorraine Killion, Rajan Lamichhane, Joseph Sai, Nestor Sherman, Jacki Thomas, George Vargas, Amit Verma, Fulden Wissinger, & Monica Wong-Ratcliff

Absent: Ian Aebel (4), Ambrose Anoruo (4), Bart Ballard (4), John Chisholm (5), Farzad Deyhim (4), Oscar Diaz (7), Elizabeth Janzen (2), Todd Lucas (3), Gerri Maxwell (5), Lisa McNair (3), & Marie de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman (1)

I. Call to Order

- a. Quorum Call 3:37 pm
Quorum Present

II. Approval of Minutes, February Meeting

- a. Senator Jacki Thomas moved to approve the minutes. Senator Kendra Huff seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

III. Presentations

- a. Dr. Rex Gandy, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - i. The SACS Site Team has arrived at TAMUK campus to investigate the 14 non-compliant areas. The next few days will be for QEP. The last day is Thursday, March 5, 2015. There will be a debriefing before the team leaves.
 - ii. The PricewaterhouseCooper Report: The draft report was received in December 2014. However, the actual report has not been received yet.
 - iii. Strategic Planning Initiative: TAMUK is talking with outside consultants regarding the strategic plans.
 - iv. New legislature: President Tallant testified about the university's needs.
- b. Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies
 - i. Research & Scholarly Activities: TAMUK research expenditures have increased by 28% and reaching \$20 million. In the last 3 years, the expenditures were about \$15 million. The goals were to increase and broaden research, generate more publications, and increase the number of student research projects. Dr. Abdelrahman asked the senators to send any new ideas to him.

- ii. Graduate Studies: TAMUK will have interdisciplinary degrees, such as Ph.D. in Engineering. Now art and design are incorporated into STEM education to become STEAM, which involves business, humanity, and social sciences.

IV. Report of Officers

- a. Senate President Vargas said that he has not had a meeting with President Tallant and Provost Gandy for 4 to 5 weeks.

- b. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee would like to schedule a luncheon with the President and Provost soon.

V. Old Business

- a. The PricewaterhouseCooper Report and the SRI recommendations will come out soon.

- b. C.2.3.1.2 Certain Teaching Situations (p. 41 of Faculty Handbook)
 - i. Senator James Glusing made a motion to delete “Exempt staff (administrative, professional) such as directors, deans, vice presidents, etc., on twelve-month contracts cannot receive extra compensation for extra assignments such as teaching, etc.” and to replace “unrelated to” (the 4th line of the second paragraph) with “do not affect”.
 - ii. Senate Vice-President Amit Verma seconded.
 - iii. The results of the vote: 13 Yes, 3 No, and 1 Abstain.
 - iv. The revised C.2.3.1.2. Certain Teaching Situations
 - 1. The first paragraph remains the same.
 - 2. The second paragraph reads:

Often opportunities present themselves to faculty and staff to utilize their expertise in situations outside their job. Faculty members receiving release time for programmatic reasons will not be considered for overload, off-campus teaching assignments.

Employees generally can accept extra paying responsibilities if they are temporary, do not affect their normal duties, and outside their regular work hours. Permission to perform outside employment can be obtained only through submission of the Faculty Outside Employment and Consulting Application and Approval Form.

- c. Absenteeism
 - i. There were 9 senators who had poor attendance. Letters were sent to inform the senators to resign.
 - ii. Senator Cathy Downs resigned from the Senate because of work overload.
 - iii. Senator Emily Ralph resigned from the Senate because she found a new job.

VI. New Business

- a. Annual Faculty Lecture Series committee
 - i. There will be no Annual Faculty Lecture Series in 2015.
 - ii. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has discussed and recommended that Dr. Michelle Garcia work on a new timeline for 2016 Annual Faculty Lecture Series.

- b. Annual Administrator Evaluation by Faculty
 - i. The Faculty Senate Administrator Evaluation Committee presented the revised “Evaluation of Administrators by Faculty”.
 - ii. Senate Vice-President Amit Verma made a motion to accept the revised “Evaluation of Administrators by Faculty”. Senator Fulden Wissinger seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

VII. Adjournment (4:45 pm)

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2015