

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Present: Ian Aebel, Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, Bart Ballard, Jody Briones, Valerie Bartelt, Apuruba (Apu) Bhattacharya, Daniel Burt, Edward Butterworth, Ruth Chatelain-Jardon, John Chisholm, M. Catherine (Cathy) Downs, James Glusing, Stan Hodges, Kendra Huff, Elizabeth Janzen, Lorraine Killion, Todd Lucas, Lisa McNair, Brenda Melendy, Randy Powell, Joseph Sai, Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman, Nestor Sherman, Jacki Thomas, George Vargas, Amit Verma, Rongdong Wang, Fulden Wissinger, & Monica Wong-Ratcliff

Absent: Farzad Deyhim (1), Oscar Diaz (1), Tim Fulbright (2), Deena L. Garza (2), Nirmal Goswami (2), Kuo-Jen Liao (1), Gerri Maxwell (1), Selahattin Ozcelik (2), Patricia Polatri (1), Emily Ralph (1), Nestor Rodriguez (2)

I. Call to Order 3:33 pm

- a. Quorum Call – Quorum Present

II. Approval of Minutes, September 2 Meeting. Motion: Senator Jacki Thomas; Second: Vice-President Amit Verma. Approved by voice vote.

III. Presentations

- a. Dr. Rex Gandy, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - i. TAMUK enrollment had reached all time high mainly because of the new graduate students in the College of Engineering.
 - ii. The current retention rate was 63.5%, which was the same as last year.
 - iii. 16% of freshman students transferred to another institution after they had spent their first year in TAMUK.
 - iv. SRI & student comments in annual faculty evaluation report – Provost Gandy asked the Faculty Senate for feedback and comments.

- b. Dr. Mohamed Abdelrehman, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
 - i. There was an error in the agenda.
 - ii. Dr. Abdelrehman stated that the purpose of his presentation was to introduce the multi-college interdisciplinary graduate programs in TAMUK.
 - iii. There were universities which offered multi-college interdisciplinary graduate programs. For example, Texas Technical University had interdisciplinary studies for graduate students.

- iv. It was a single degree but involved multiple disciplines.
- v. The Procedure Chart showed how the graduate programs would be approved. The University Graduate Curriculum Committee would review and/or approve the proposal. Then, the proposal would be sent to the Graduate Council for reviews and approval.
- vi. There would be no department involved because the program was broader than the dean's office.
- vii. Ph.D. in STEM would involve the Colleges of Arts & Science, Education and Engineering.
- viii. Each college would approve the courses. The credits and funds allocated to the colleges depended on the number of courses taught by the faculty.
- ix. Graduate Council would vote on the procedures and policies.
 - x. There would be narratives or descriptions about the procedures in addition to the Procedure Chart.
- xi. Dr. Abdelrehman asked the Faculty Senate for support and comments.
- xii. Motion: Senator Cathy Downs moved that the Senate offered support to the Procedure for Approving Multi-College Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs.
- xiii. The motion was seconded by Senator Edward Butterworth.
- xiv. The motion was passed by voice.

IV. Report of Officers

- a. Senate President George Vargas: Meeting(s) with President Tallant and Provost Gandy
 - i. PricewaterhouseCoopers Report on Texas A&M University System affected different universities in the TAMUS
 - ii. President Vargas will send out the link to the report
 - iii. Overuse of money in College Station; hiring freeze of administrator positions
 - iv. There may be re-assignment of course load in Spring 2015 for those faculty members who shared the workload as administrators
 - v. Enrollment Issues - space was limited on the campus; parking was limited
 - vi. President Tallant was thinking about giving bonus to faculty either in December or January. He would like to make the commitment of 3-4% raise.

V. Old Business

- a. Senate Review of SRI
 - i. SRI Task Force Final Recommendations was made on April 1, 2013
 - ii. However, there was no follow-up in the Challoo administration
 - iii. There were concerns about anonymity and the reversed items
 - iv. Motion: Senator Cathy Downs moved to ask the higher-up administrators how and why the comments were used
 - v. Senator Downs later retracted her motion and made a new motion: Faculty Senate will form a committee to make recommendations.

- vi. This motion was seconded by Senator Edward Butterworth
- vii. President George Vargas suggested inviting Provost Gandy to address the questions, such as:
 - 1. At what level is this being requested, System, THECB, Legislature?
 - 2. What purpose do they intend the use of this information?

VI. New Business

- a. Senator Emily Ralph: Campus Safety
 - i. Senator Ralph was absent.
- b. Honorary Degree Nomination: Dr. Lauro Cavazos
 - i. There should be a committee to decide the recipient.

VII. Announcements

- a. New Senators - Senators Valerie Bartelt, Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman, and Jody Briones
- b. Elections of Colleges of Arts & Sciences & Engineering - ballots were not counted yet
- c. Name plaques – President George Vargas reminded the senators to put down their names on the list if they needed a name plaque.
- d. Committee on committees 2014-2015 membership:
 - Senator Ambrose Anoruo – College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Human Sciences
 - Senator Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman – Jernigan Library
 - Senator Valerie Bartelt – College of Business Administration (chair)
 - Senator Jody Briones – College of Arts & Sciences
 - Senator Lisa McNair – College of Education & Human Performance
 - Senator Joseph Sai – College of Engineering

VIII. Adjournment 4:45 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday November 4, 2014