

**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2014**

**Present:** Ian Aebel, Bart Ballard, Valerie Bartelt, Daniel Burt, Edward J. Butterworth, Ruth Chatelain-Jardon, Farzad Deyhim, Oscar Diaz, M. Catherine (Cathy) Downs, James Glusing, Stan Hodges, Kendra Huff, Elizabeth Janzen, Lorraine Killion, Kuo-Jen Liao, Todd Lucas, Gerri Maxwell, Lisa McNair, Patricia Polatri, Emily Ralph, Joseph Sai, Nestor Sherman, George Vargas, Amit Verma, Rongdong Wang, Fulden Wissinger, & Monica Wong-Ratcliff

**Absent:** Polly Allred (1), Ambrose Anoruo (1), Apurba (Apu) Bhattacharya (1), John Chisholm (1), Tim Fulbright (1), Deena L. Garza (1), Nirmal Goswami (1), Brenda Melendy (1), Selahattin Ozcelik (1), Randy Powell (1), Nestor Rodriguez (1), & Jacki Thomas (1)

**1. Call to Order - 3:38**

a. Quorum Call - Quorum Present

**2. Approval of Minutes**, May 6 Meeting. Motion: Senator Cathy Downs. Second: Senator Emily Ralph. Approved by voice vote.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Dr. Rex Gandy, Provost**

- i. Strategic Planning Process 2015: The process would start this fall. Provost Gandy would visit every department. President Tallant would present the plan to the Board of Regents.
- ii. College of Arts & Sciences: The Dean had left. However, there was a hiring freeze for administrative positions. There would be a re-organization of the college this fall.
- iii. Organizational study by PricewaterhouseCooper: Next week Texas A&M University System would announce the organizational study of all system universities conducted by PricewaterhouseCooper. In two weeks, President Tallant would receive the report. The purpose of the study was to identify administrative costs that could be moved to academic mission (such as research).
- iv. Enrollment: As of September 2, 2014, enrollment reached an all time high. We had about 8,500 students. The number of graduate students grew a lot.
- v. Student Comments in Student Rating of Instruction: Currently, the student comments went only to the faculty, not administrators. Provost Gandy thought that should not be the case. He had worked in different universities and the administrators could read the comments; but not in TAMUK. He and President Tallant were interested in hearing the comments of the Faculty Senate.

- vi. Tenure and Promotion: There were external reviews on tenure and promotion. But there were no consistent rules about how the external letters were generated. Provost Gandy asked for comments from the Faculty Senate about whether we wanted to have external review. How do we want the review to be done?

**b. Dr. Bruce Schueneman, Library Director**

- i. Library Policy Issues: The original statement of criteria for university librarians were used since 1995, which was approved by the faculty senate. After 2009, librarians were no longer on tenure-track. But Provost Gandy mandated to use the same evaluation. The existing librarians did not have any comments on the new 2014 Statement of Criteria for University Librarians Including Procedures for Appointment, Evaluation and Promotion. Dr. Bruce Schueneman asked the Faculty Senate to vote on the new statement.
- ii. AMK Digital Repository: More than 8,500 scholars boycotted Elsevier. TAMU System paid \$3 million a year for the subscription from Elsevier. Dr. Schueneman asked the Senators to encourage their colleagues to support the Digital Repository, which was an open access to both AMK scholar-produced publications and TAMUK archives. There would be no physical paper. All articles and documents would be in pdf format.

**c. Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman**

- i. Research Track Faculty Policy: TAMUK had non-tenure research professors or research assistant professors, who wrote grants to support themselves and their research assistants. Basically, they were research scientists. Their salaries were funded by grant money. Currently, TAMU and TAMUCC had the policy for research track faculty. Dr. Abdelrahman asked the Faculty Senate for comments/opinions about the policy and hoped to implement the policy soon.

**d. Police Chief Felipe Garza**

- i. Campus Security: There were issues in the dormitories, such as drugs, alcohol, and theft. The trend was more acting-outs on the campus. 5 officers were trained to handle mental crises. There were monthly meetings with the local health center to identify problems. Also, there were fines for crimes and violations, ranging from \$3,500 to \$100,000.
- ii. No texting while driving on the campus
- iii. Announcements and Contact Information: Chief Garza asked faculty to encourage students to sign-up for e-mail announcements and add the phone number of campus police (361-593-2611) as one of their favorites on their cell phones.

#### **IV. Report of Officers**

##### **a. Senate President George Vargas: Meetings(s) with President Tallant and Provost Gandy**

- i. SRIs - we visited before; we needed to discuss about the student comments.
- ii. Organizations in TAMUK: Some of the positions of administrators would be cut. Some of the administrative roles would be placed on the faculty. But there was no decision made yet on what to be done, maybe a course release.
- iii. Senator James Glusing raised the concern that the Faculty Handbook stated that administrators were not able to teach.
- iv. External letters for tenure and promotion: It was not clear about how these letters should be generated.
- v. Parking committee: Parking on the campus had been an issue. There was a discussion about the allocation of parking spaces.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **a. Senate Vice President Amit Verma: Revision of Instructor/Adjunct Evaluation Form**

- i. Vice President Verma suggested taking the business to Human Resources. But Leon Bazar was on vacation. SRI should be enough for the evaluation. Why did we need extra forms?

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **a. Update on election of Senator to replace Ms. Victoria Packard:** Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman was elected representing Jernigan Library.

##### **b. Senator Emily Ralph: Campus Safety**

- i. Prevention of sexual assault and enforcement of alcohol policy involved federal money. Senator Ralph commented that the Faculty Senate needed to help to communicate with administrators and think about our roles in promoting campus safety. We should start the dialogue. Faculty Senate may collaborate with the Student Senate.
- ii. Motion: Senator Elizabeth Janzen – to form a joint committee with Student Senate to promote campus safety. Second: Senator Patricia Polastri. Passed by voice vote.

#### **VII. Announcements - None**

#### **VIII. Adjournment 4:47 pm**

Next meeting: Tuesday Oct 7, 2014