

Faculty Senate Meeting – October 4, 2016

Senators Present: Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Santa Barraza (1), Xiaoliu Chi (1), April Conkey, Barbara Cooke, Christine Fiestas, Ann Fronckowiak, Armando Garza, Kristopher Garza, Christopher Hearon, Stan Hodges, Patricia Huskin, Armando Ibanez (2), Elizabeth Janzen, Dongnyoung Kim, Larry Knight, Melody Knight, Jody Marin, Craig A. Meyer, Richard Miller, Barbara Oates (1), David Ramirez (1), Kathleen Rees (1), Joachim Reinhuber (1), Joseph Sai, Jack Shorter, Chang Sung, Randall Williams (1), Chongwei Xiao (1), Subbarao Yeliseti, Muhittin Yilmaz, Nuri Yilmazer, Hong Zhu (1)

Senators Absent: Bart Ballard (2), Kai Jin, Don Jones, Lifford McLaughlan, Bruce Marsh (2), Pamela Wright,

Attending: Dr. Heidi Anderson, Dr. Teisa Riley, Mr. Raajkumar Kurapati,

1. Call to Order and Quorum Call – 3:32 p.m.

- President Chaloo asked the parliamentarian, Polly Allred, if there were enough members for a quorum. Senator Allred replied in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes from September Senate Meeting

- President Chaloo asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes. The motion passed with one abstention.

Presentation from Provost, Dr. Heidi Anderson:

- Dr. Anderson reported on the Search Committees: for the Registrar the email would be out as soon as possible and for the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences as soon as she met with the College of Agriculture.
- Dr. Anderson is forming a task force to address first generation college student needs. The Task Force will create a webpage that will help students navigate from registration to graduation.
- Dr. Anderson also stated that an online application process to apply for graduation was being created with Banner. The College of Business Administration and the College of Education and Human Performance will participate in a pilot test of this application in December.
- Faculty need to become aware of SACS announcements with regard to Higher Education. The government does not feel that accrediting bodies (such as SACS) are tough enough to keep institutions accountable. Graduation rates and default rates are two elements examined by the government, as well as SACS. Dr. Anderson thinks that SACS will be looking into this before the next accreditation date.

- Dr. Anderson is forming a task force to look into the possible creation of a College of Health Professions. She will task the Committee by Friday and expects a report in five to six weeks.
- Senator Miller asked about the search for the Honors College Dean. It will probably be an active search until Spring. President Chaloo asked for an update on the Coordinating Board and the Board of Regents meetings. There were no reports.

Presentation from Senior VP for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management and University Administration, Dr. Terisa Riley:

- Dr. Riley addressed the Senate about the problems with Financial Aid early in the semester. Dr. Riley explained that after 20 years of almost no program reviews in regard to Financial Aid, the Department of Education decided to review campuses across the nation. Texas A&M University-Kingsville was the first institution in the A&M System, and one of the first in the nation, to undergo the current round of financial aid reviews. Twenty areas were found to be in need of improvements. Dr. Riley took over Financial Aid in January. A lot of work was expended to bring the Financial Aid process up to Federal standards and this led to a rough start but now everything is in place and should run smoothly from now on. The University is now in compliance.
- Senator Miller asked about a transfer student that was not able to acquire a scholarship. Dr. Riley suggested that going through Academic Works for scholarships would help match a student with a scholarship provided all qualifications were included.
- Senator Reinhuber asked if the financial aid process would be better next year; Dr. Riley assured the Senate that the process would run smoother in the future and that a communication strategy will be in place.
- Dr. Riley also addressed concerns about campus parking. Dr. Riley said a new parking lot will be built, which will be paid through a parking assessment. She also said the Parking Committee would be reconstituted.
- Dr. Riley also mentioned the intramural sports facility.

Presentation from Senior VP for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Ranajkumar Kurapati:

- Mr Kurapati addressed the Faculty Senate and described plans to find a better way to communicate budget issues and how resources are allotted. He mentioned that the operating side of the budget was not keeping with the growth of the campus. He is looking at changes in the website to allow better access to budget and finance.
- Mr. Kurapati congratulated Dr. Riley for the handling of Financial Aid.
- Mr. Kurapati said he would be working to streamline financial processes when possible, for example, no longer requiring receipts

when traveling using per diem. There is also a Customer Service initiative, intended to gather information about customer services processes and to improve them.

- Senator Knight asked about per diem. Mr. Kurapati stated that the University would now allow reimbursement on state-allowed per diem instead of gathering receipts.

6. Report of Officers

- President Chaloo reported changes to the academic calendar from the calendar committee. Summer sessions will be 5 days, Monday through Friday to cover the required 48 sessions of 50-minute instruction including the final exam.
- A question about Summer Intersessions was asked. President Chaloo said the dates will be posted.
- President Chaloo brought up the Parliamentarian position. He stated the Constitution of the Faculty Senate has contradictory sections and therefore the ad-hoc committee is charged to amend the Constitution and bring it to the senate floor for approval. To remedy the problem temporarily, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate recommended a vote. Ballots were distributed and nominations were called for. Ballots were counted and Senator Polly Allred was elected as the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.
- Senator Miller reported on the meeting with Dr. Tallant and Dr. Anderson. He reported that Dr. Tallant discussed faculty salaries. Dr. Tallant also mentioned the importance faculty play in enrollment and recruiting. Dr. Tallant was concerned that faculty were not reimbursed when engaging in recruitment activities. Dr. Anderson asked for evidence that some are held accountable for recruitment. She would like to be provided with specific dates for out of pocket reports.
- Senator Miller also reported on the Experimental Learning Transcript that would report on what students have learned and would document the students' marketable skills also. Several universities are already using this Experimental Learning Transcript that is appended to the Academic Transcript.
- Senator Ayala-Schueneman reported about the meeting of the Academic Deans' Council. Post Tenure Review was discussed. The creation of a Customer Service Committee was in formation stage. The Provost mentioned a System wide IT issues governance committee to discuss IT issues at System wide level. The IT governance committee will be advised by an academic advisory group. The Provost stated all AMK employees must follow the State of Texas foreign travel guidelines for those traveling abroad. She also mentioned that the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee is being formed. The idea of a University Policy Committee was discussed. She also mentioned SALT, a financial tool available to students about financial literacy.

- President Chaloo reported that the ballots had been counted and Senator Allred elected Parliamentarian.

7. Old Business

- Senator Janzen reported on the progress of the SRI Committee. Only 5 out of the 89 faculty asked to pilot the new SRI had accepted. The template has been completed and proofed. It is ready to be tested this semester.
- Senator Shorter reported for the Elections Committee. There were three newly elected representatives: Senator Craig A. Meyer, Senator Larry Knight, and Senator Polly Allred.
- Senator Miller and Senator Ayala-Schueneman reported that the Committee to Review the Faculty Senate Constitution will report at the November meeting. Senator Miller said that the Committee was considering, among other things, the Past President as an ex officio member, as well as revising the Elections process. There is also consideration for changing the Parliamentarian to an ex officio member, not a Senator.
- Senator Miller reported that the revised Annual Faculty Evaluation will be voted on in November and asked the Senators to remind the faculty in their departments to review the document and send recommendations for changes to him before the next meeting.

8. New Business

- Senator Melody Knight brought up the issue of Faculty Office Hours, suggesting that office hours be changed from 10 hours to 5 hours a week as other universities have done.

9. Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted

María de Jesús Ayala-Schueneman