

## **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2017**

**Senators Present:** Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, María Ayala-Schueneman, Santa Barraza, Marion Blake, Jieming Chen, Horacio Duarte, Christine Fiestas, Ann Fronckowiak, Karen Furgerson, Kristopher Garza, Jeffrey Glick, Brent Hedquist, Elizabeth Janzen, Joseph Jones, Dongnyoung Kim, Larry Knight, Lana McDonnell, Brian Menaker, Craig A. Meyer, Richard Miller, Joseph Sai, Ari Sherris, Jack Shorter, Tushar Sinha, Marsha Sowell, Amit Verma, Randall Williams, Hong Zhou

**Senators Absent:** Natasha Bell, Rudolf Bohm, Christopher Hearon, Kai Jin, Tim Oblad, Patrick Mills, Barbara Oates, Patricia Polastri, Elda E. Sanchez, Pamela Wright, Subbarao Yelisetti, Nuri Yilmazer

**Attending:** Dr. Allen Rasmussen, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Arnoldo Trejo, Executive Director of Financial Aid

### **I. Call to Order and Quorum Call.**

At 3:35 p.m. President Miller asked the parliamentarian, Polly Allred, if enough members were present for a quorum. Senator Allred replied in the affirmative.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from November 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting.**

President Miller asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes. The Secretary asked that the minutes be approved at the February meeting after Senators send corrections to the Secretary since the minutes were incomplete.

### **III. Presentations.**

#### **A. Presentation from Dr. Allan Rasmussen, Provost**

- Dr. Rasmussen reported that the University expected a March 2018 SACS visit at Weslaco for accreditation purposes.
- The Provost asked the Faculty Senate to look into academic regalia for commencements.

#### **B. Presentation from Dr. Michelle Duran, AVP for Teaching and Learning**

- Dr. Duran made a presentation concerning Ad Astra, an academic scheduling system. She delineated the importance and uses of the system.
- Dr. Duran asked for feedback and support as AdAstra continues to be implemented.

#### **C. Presentation from Mr. Raajkumar Kurapati, VP for Finance and CFO**

- Mr. Kurapati was not able to attend.

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

- a. Senate President Miller reported that he had attended the University Budget Council Meeting and had been appointed to a subcommittee. He also announced that he was meeting with President Tallant and Provost Rasmussen on Wednesday.

### **V. Old Business – None.**

### **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

- a. **Resolution and By-laws/Handbook Committee** – No report.
- b. **Committee on Committees** – No report.
- c. **Election Committee** – Senator Furgerson reported that there were votes to count and witness.

### **VII. Reports from Committees Reporting to the Senate**

- a. **Administrator Evaluation Committee** – No report.
- b. **Annual Faculty Leave Committee** – No report.

- c. **Piper Award Committee** – Senator Williams reported that there were 6 to 8 candidates from AMK. Dr. Nirmal Goswami was chosen as AMK's candidate. The winner will be announced in May. Of 160 candidates statewide, 10 will be selected for this award.
- d. **Faculty Evaluation Committee** – Senator McDonnell reported that the Committee was planning to meet on December 13 (9-noon & 1-4) CBA Room. Senator McDonnell invited the Resolution/By-laws Committee to attend.
- e. **University Appeals Committee** – It was reported that a pool of names for the University Appeals Committee had been submitted to Dr. Gardiner.
- f. **Faculty Benefits Committee** – It was reported that the Committee had not yet met.

#### **VIII. Task Force Reports**

- a. **Team Teaching** – Senators McDonnell, Barraza, and Fronckowiak are Task Force members. No report.
- b. **Summer Salary Caps** – Senators Knight, Furgerson, & McDonnell are Task Force members. It was suggested the Task Force ask Deans how much lecturers earn, what is the policy for team teaching, and what is the salary cap? A recommendation will be made to the Senate.
- c. **Task Force on Overload Compensation/Banked Hours** – Senators Hearon and Menaker are Task Force members. It was reported that President Tallant wants to eliminate banked hours and instead have faculty paid for taking overloads. The Task Force has been asked for a recommendation to take forward to the Faculty Senate.
- d. **Task Force on Salary Compression/Gender Equity** – Senators Blake, Bohem, and Chen have met and will make a report at the February meeting. The Task Force has met some interesting challenges in data collection. One finding is that people of lower rank may earn more than those with more years of experience.
- e. **SRI Revision** – Senator Janzen assured the Senate that she had given clear instructions to OIR concerning the SRI and results should be apparent soon.

#### **IX. New Business**

- a. **Summer Class times** - Senator Allred brought up the 50 minutes gap between classes and asked that a recommendation be made to close the gap. A discussion ensued. A quorum call was made before a motion was made. Senator Allred, the Parliamentarian, informed the Faculty Senate that there was no quorum.
- b. **Appointment of Senate representative to the Electronic Information Resource Accessibility Committee** – Senator Jieming Chen was appointed to this committee.
- c. **Consideration of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award** – This issue was tabled until February.

**X. Announcements.** No announcements were made.

**XI. Adjournment.** At 5:16 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made and passed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

María de Jesús Ayala-Schueneman  
Faculty Senate Secretary