

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2019

**Senators Present:** Matthew Alexander, Ambrose Anoruo, Rudolf Bohm, Lucy Camacho, Jieming Chen, Michelle Garcia, James Glusing, Maribel Gonzalez-Garcia, Maria Hernandez-Velez, Simona Hodis, Ya-Wen Liang, Steven Lukefahr, Craig A. Meyer, Richard Miller, Patrick Mills, Jesse Orth, Ryan Paul, Humberto Perotto, Christine Radcliff, Alex Sanchez-Behar, Hans Schumann, Ari Sherris, Amber Shipherd, Jennifer Sholtis, Jack Shorter, Marsha Sowell, Haibin Su, Ramiro Torres, Benjamin Turner, Subbarao Yeliseti, Teresa Young

**Senators Absent:** David Cutton, Ulan Dakeev, Manuel Flores, Michael Houf, Dongnyoung Kim, Lifford McLaughlan, Chika Rosenbaum, Dazhi Sun, William Worek

## I. Call to Order and Quorum Call.

At 3:33 p.m. President Anoruo asked the parliamentarian, Michelle Garcia, if enough members were present for a quorum. Senator Garcia replied in the affirmative.

## II. Approval of Minutes from September 2019 Faculty Senate Meeting.

President Anoruo asked for approval of the previous meeting minutes. Senator Miller motioned, Senator Sherris seconded. Minutes were approved.

## III. Presentations

### a. Provost Allen Rasmussen

#### i. UTRGV – free tuition for families with income of less than \$75,000

The Provost wanted to clarify what this actually means and what the A&M System is doing as a result of this announcement. He stated that UTRGV has a lot of caveats on this offer to qualify. TAMU-System has been reviewing this idea to determining the most appropriate program for the students at each institution.

There were a few questions when the Provost finished with this topic.

Q: Senator Sherris asked if there is a way to offer in-state tuition to territories (i.e. Puerto Rico, Guam)?

A: Waivers can be offered up to a certain percentage of enrollment, but after that number is reached the University has to cover the remaining cost equal to the out of state tuition.

Q: Senator Sherris asked if there was maybe a way to have a set enrollment number?

A: The State funding model is based on growth in enrollment, and if the other schools in the state grow and we do not, then the funding model will work against us.

#### ii. Reorganization of the Office of Graduate Studies

The Provost also wanted to give a more in-depth explanation of the changes in the Office of Graduate Studies. He said the 3 positions that dealt with graduate admissions were moved to Enrollment Management to take advantage of economy of scale.

Additionally he reported that the University is officially using Degree Works and that training will be provided for graduate faculty, coordinators, etc. It is very important that graduate student degree plans are entered in Degree Works, because it is our official record. Additionally Degree Works also saves time on degree check-out after graduation. He said by using the system what used to take 4 days and multiple staff, now takes 2 days and just one staff member.

Q: Senator Garcia asked who is in charge of Degree Works.

A: The registrar's office

Q: Senator Garcia asked about how coordinators are supposed to access Degree Works, because right now they do not have access.

A: They are fixing some access issues now. In addition, some questions were raised concerning the number of hours a student takes versus what is required in the degree plan. This will be addressed in the training but in general only put in the required courses in the degree plan

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

##### **a. Senate President Anoruo**

###### **i. New Faculty Orientation**

President Anoruo was unable to attend this event, so Senator Radcliff attended in his place. She gave a quick explanation of what Faculty Senate is and how it is comprised. She also gave them the [Senate website](#) information and told them about the [Faculty Handbook](#).

###### **ii. Senate Bill 18 – Protected expression on campus**

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 18, addressing the protection of campus expressive activities. This new law adds [Texas Education Code Section 51.9315](#), which requires that each public institution of higher education “adopt a policy detailing student’s rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities” on its campus.

At this time the committee has looked over a template from TAMU-System and decided to wait to see what the other system campuses are doing before moving forward with a TAMUK policy. It was also mentioned in the meeting that TAMUK already has policies in place that cover what is talked about in SB 18, so there will not be any changes in how these issues are handled on campus.

###### **iii. TAMUK faculty titles**

This issue was brought to the President and the Provost, but Dr. Hussey asked to table this discussion until the Senate Executive Council luncheon later in October.

**iv. Inviting Dr. Croft to speak at a Senate meeting**

This issue was brought to the President and the Provost, but Dr. Hussey asked to table this discussion until the Senate Executive Council luncheon later in October.

**v. Agreement on minute approvals for speakers**

At times when the President or Provost speak to the Senate, the Senate Secretary will now send the appropriate party their section of the minutes for review before distributing them to the general Senate. This will help ensure that all official information was interpreted correctly, and that the official record of Senate meetings is correct.

**vi. Javelina Leadership Academy**

The first cohort has now started. President Hussey had a meeting with the coordinators of this program and asked questions about the selection process, and cost per attendee. It was discussed that the JLA will complete one project over the course of the academy, and this year's project will be to research how to continue to increase Carnegie standing.

**vii. System Regulations**

[SR 61.01.02](#) – Public Information has had sections revised. The specific revised sections are 2.2 and 3.1.

**viii. Texas Council of Faculty Senate**

President Anoruo will attend this meeting October 18-19. He had asked if the Senate President-Elect could also attend, and was told that there is no budget available to send an additional person.

President Anoruo has asked for input for the report that each Senate President is asked to submit for the meeting. He asks that any input please be sent to him by October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The report includes the following information:

1. A general description of your university
  - a. Profile & enrollment
  - b. New programs & degrees
  - c. Major construction & renovation
2. A description of your faculty assembly/council/senate
  - a. Its composition
  - b. Highlights of recent and current business
3. A description of 1 to 2 major issues on your campus

**V. Old Business**

**a. Action Plan for 2019-2020 (see handout Action Plan 2019-2020)**

President Anoruo provided a handout listing 11 issues that have been brought to him for this year's action plan. He put out another call for input and asked that all information be sent to Senator Radcliff no later than 5pm October 28<sup>th</sup>. All issues will be reviewed and brought to the November Senate meeting for final decision on what to pursue this year.

## **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

- a. **Committee on Committees** – no report
- b. **Election Committee** – Senator Radcliff reported that since one of the representatives for College at large Education has now taken on administrative duties, that seat is vacant, but will not be filled so as to be correctly aligned with the apportionment numbers that were done last Spring.
- c. **Resolution and By-laws/Handbook Committee** – The committee is still looking for a Chair. Senator Garcia recommended Senator Bohm and said she would help him. Senator Bohm has agreed and will be the Chair.

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

- a. **Administrator Evaluation Committee** - no report
- b. **Annual Faculty Lecture Committee** – no report
- c. **Piper Award Committee** – no report
- d. **Faculty Evaluation Committee** – no report
- e. **University Appeals Committee** – no report
- f. **Faculty Benefits Committee** – No report
- g. **Policy Revision Committee** – no report

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. **Ad hoc committee to explore the Gateway report.**  
Senator Sherris has agreed to chair this committee and volunteers were solicited to round out the committee. Senators Schumann, Yelisetti, Bohm and Lukefahr agreed to serve on the committee. The committee will set up a time to access the survey results with President Anoruo, and has agreed to provide a progress update on what they have found at the December meeting.

## **IX. Announcements – N/A**

- X. **Adjournment** – At 4:38pm a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Meyer and seconded by Senator Garcia, motion was passed.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Christine Radcliff  
Faculty Senate Secretary, 2019-2020

### **Action Plan 2019-2020**

1. Merit pay (lump sum vs. in salary)
2. Admin passwords on computers
3. Ability to do work in light of computer restrictions from ITech,
4. ITech person be assigned to each building to do computer updates
5. Workload input
6. MAC computers not supported
7. Summer pay.
8. Revise section C.2.3.1.2, Certain Teaching Situations, within the Faculty Handbook to allowable variance for exempt staff to receive extra compensation for teaching assignments that fall outside their normal working hours/online or that they have been granted release time.
9. Faculty overload pay (and unfairness in pay for those overloads to different faculty members)
10. Another avenue for Faculty to bring issues to administration than the Senate, and this alternative avenue must protect their anonymity
11. Lecturer course load (used to be 4/4) then moved to 5/5 because of budget, but that was supposed to be temporary