

## Faculty Senate Minutes for 2 October 2009

Call to Order at 1215

Roll Call:-Senators Gruben and Salinas absent

Guests: Drs. Keck, Arenaz, Lira, Tobin, and Parhizgar

Dr. Keck-(1)Requested Faculty Senate to look at freshman to sophomore retention issues and provide comments accordingly. Discussion ensued concluding with a proposed 3 part project beginning with a review of the data by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, a faculty Senate response following analysis of the data, and submittal of analysis to Dr. Keck to assist a University task force to develop solutions and courses of action.

(2)Dr. Keck led a discussion regarding how to improve intra-communications between administration, staff, and faculty. Despite technological innovations to facilitate communication, there remains a problem in dissemination and sharing of information within the University.

(3) HB 2504 (placing syllabi and faculty evaluations on line) still has some implementation problems. An implementation plan is required by January 2010 and System-wide discussion continues regarding the feasibility of a System-wide form/format to be followed.

Dr. Arenaz- (1) HB 2504 will not have written comments posted but some form of aggregation will be used.

(2) Teaching Excellence Award announcements to be promulgated for 2010. 2209 had 48/54 participants receive awards with 10 from TAMIU receiving a \$5000.00 award. Dr. Parhizgar asked Dr. Arenaz to provide feedback results regarding the awards.

(3) A Program for System Admissions, similar to the UT program, is being considered by A&M.

(4) A Course Exchange Program is being considered that would allow students to enroll in courses from Texas schools that may not be offered at home schools. Details to follow.

(5) Coordinating Board is shifting focus from new programs to evaluating low producing degree programs. Criteria for a low program is considered to be less than 3 PhDs or 6 Master's graduates in a three year period. 9 students for an undergraduate program in a three year period would qualify as a low producing program.

Old Business:

Minutes for 4 September meeting approved.

Senator Townsend requested status of faculty mentoring program which has been approved but does not yet appear in Faculty Handbook. Senator Maxstadt indicated that the PROF Ctr. Director has that as part of their portfolio but inquiries should be made to Lisa Flores for an update. A brief discussion regarding the mentoring program insertion into the faculty handbook

followed. Dr. Parhizgar commented that the Business school followed a different model but that all mentors should possess specific qualities to serve as mentors and whether or not mentoring requires an assessment component. Senator Sung commented that proposed mentoring program targeted junior faculty at the exclusion of newly hired senior faculty. A parliamentary procedure discussion ensued regarding whether or not a motion had been presented to amend the faculty handbook to include the mentoring program. A review of Roberts Rules will be done by Senator Rhodes (Parliamentarian) and presented at next Senate meeting.

Committee reports:

Faculty Handbook committee to meet and address re-organizing the format of the handbook which excludes appendices as part of the current revision.

Assessment Committee scheduled to revise student evaluation instrument. Problems include what to do with data collected during the summer and the report prepared by Dr. Stamoulous who has left and the Administration is not going to replace her. The Administration is waiting for a System report by 31 October as HB 2504 must be part of the revision process. Senator Hurtado reported that meetings are scheduled with the Asst. Provost and Mary Trevino's office during October. Senator Maxstadt noted that it is more productive to focus on our input into the System wide report. Senator Hurtado added that it is doubtful any System wide report will go forward with current revision of student evaluation instrument.

Academic Oversight Committee reported that Dr. Keck's interest in retention has led to the Faculty Senate becoming engaged in reviewing data available and to submit an advisory report that will lead to a defined plan of action to improve retention numbers. Academic Oversight Committee to address issue of tenure for librarians as a cataloguer position is vacant and is advertised a non-tenure track position.

Committee on Committees reported difficulties in completing membership of Grievance committee.

Finance Committee added Senator Maxstadt as a member and he was appointed by the Faculty Senate President to be the Senate representative to the University Budget Committee.

Faculty Work Committee had nothing to report.

Ethics Committee had nothing to report.

New Business: Parliamentarian to review procedural guidelines affecting length of discussions and make recommendations that will enhance the efficiency of meeting lengths and keep discussions on point.

Adjourned at 1425.

WW Riggs