

Faculty Senate Minutes for 6 November 2009

Call to Order at 1215

Roll Call:-Senators Bennett, Garcia, Hachar, Maxstadt, Hinojosa, Hurtado, Townsend, Rhodes, Riggs, Ramirez, Hoang, Sung present.

Guests: Dr. Keck and Dr. Rosemary Plank (Director of PROF Center), Rebecca Garcia, Mayra Hernandez, LeeBrian Gaskins, Tom Johnson

Dr. Keck addressed three points:

1. Coordinating Board's report on Low Performing Programs identified guidelines for what is considered a low performing program.
 - a. Less than 25 graduates within 5 years for undergraduate programs
 - b. Less than 15 graduates within 5 years for graduate programs
 - c. Although these are guidelines and not a rule, TAMIU programs affected are English, History, Political Science Early Reading, Sociology, and Spanish.
2. Faculty Handbook needs to comply with System Handbook and formatting and urged completion of this before semester's end. Discussion ensued regarding the length of the revised handbook. Dr. Keck and the Provost suggested the 30-40 page limit which was taken as an advisory recommendation only by the Faculty Senate.
3. Do not cancel classes on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving break.

Rebecca Garcia discussed "All4TAMIU" program

Mayra Hernandez discussed the new Honor Code and the misunderstanding of the "F" grade award as identified on p 120 of the Handbook.

Tom Johnson provided information and encouraged faculty participation in the Texas Faculty Association which is a faculty advocacy organization for Texas schools.

Dr. Rosemary Plank introduced as new Director of PROF Center.

Old Business:

Minutes for 2 October meeting approved.

SWOT analysis input requested by 11 November from Senators in order to submit Faculty Senate input to the assistant Provost- Dr. Lira.

Faculty Evaluations of Administrators to be distributed when classes are over.

Senator Townsend made a motion to extend today's meeting time by 15 minutes; seconded, and passed.

Committee reports:

Academic Oversight Committee

1. Senator Hurtado reported on the Librarian status and Faculty Handbook. Senator Maxstadt reported on actions by the Provost regarding existing library faculty vacancy to include requirement to teach as a condition of tenure. There was discussion regarding whether or not these actions are in violation of Faculty Handbook provisions/procedures concerning library faculty.
2. Senator Hurtado suggested the Faculty Senate propose a resolution that would be available to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee should the Provost and President not agree on the provisions/procedures contained in the Faculty Handbook concerning library faculty.
3. A motion was made by the Senate President, seconded, discussed, and passed empowering the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to: draft a resolution “requiring compliance of policies and procedures in the Faculty Handbook.”

Assessment Committee

Senator Hurtado reported the committee was waiting for data to be delivered to the ad hoc committee of Hurtado, Bennett, Sung, and Hong for analysis regarding retention issues.

Finance Committee

Senator Maxstadt is serving on University Budget Committee as Faculty Senate representative. To date the Senate Finance committee has yet to elect a chairman. An email request for volunteers was sent to members by the interim chair but no one has volunteered to serve as chair as of this date.

Committee on Committees- no report

Faculty Handbook Committee to meet on 12 November at 1400

New Business

Senator Townsend posed a discussion topic for the next meeting regarding how to raise faculty awareness concerning what the Senate is doing.

Adjourned at 1500.

WW Riggs