

Faculty Senate Meeting

5 March 2010

12:00 n – 2:30 pm

KL 430

I. Call to Order by Dr. W. Riggs at 12:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call : **Present:** Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. L. Brown, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. A. Ramirez, Jr., Ms. V. García, Dr. P. Hoang, Dr. J. Kilburn, Dr. A. Limón, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. W. Riggs, Dr. G. Salinas, Dr. C. Sung, Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. M. Vargas

Dr. Miroslava Vargas was welcomed as our latest Faculty Senate Representative.

III. The minutes for the previous Senate Meeting were approved.

IV. Committee Reports and Discussion:

Handbook Committee:

Mr. Townsend reported that the Handbook Committee had met 4 times in the last 10 days to mark redundancies and items to possibly remove in the Handbook and that the April 1st deadline would be met to complete this task.

Academic Affairs Oversight Committee: did not meet.

Some discussion was made concerning the reinstating of students who were dropped for non-payment and pushing the 20th Day Class Roster until the last class day and the Academic Affairs Oversight Committee were asked to look into these matters.

Assessment Committee:

Dr. Bennett reported that the Administration Evaluations were tallied and ready to return and it was decided to return them ASAP together with the results of the 2010 Evaluations.

Budget Committee: did not meet, but Dr. Kilburn reported that a meeting would be held the following week.

Committee on Committee's: did not meet, but Dr. Rhodes reported that the Committee would meet soon to take up the issue of balancing Senate Members workload in attending University Committees as Senate Representatives.

Faculty Moral Committee: did not meet.

Ethics Committee: Ms. García reported that the representatives of the Ethics Committee met with Ms. Mira Hernandez concerning the Honor Council and concerns that a non-academician was chairing the

Council. The meeting also dealt with finalizing the wording of the Honor Code so that it could be sent to the Faculty Senate and to the Faculty for review and for a vote.

V. Other Items:

Dr. Riggs announced that only about 20 Senate Questionnaires had been returned and urged all to participate in this endeavor.

Dr. Riggs reported on the Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting that he attended. Among the items in his report were:

- The issue of Academic Freedom vs. Freedom of Speech inside and out of the classroom
- We should check the Handbook carefully in terms of Shared Governance and the fact that there is no case law in Texas that supports Shared Governance.
- Merit raises are being used as a tool to limit the growth of full-time Faculty.
- Why Administrators at TAMIU make \$2 million dollars more then Faculty.

Dr. Rhodes informed the group that the election of new Faculty Senate Officers occurs on the first Friday Meeting in May and that a call for nominations for Officers and for Representatives who have completed their service would take place shortly after we come back from Spring Break.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.