

## Faculty Senate Meeting

5 November 2010  
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm  
WHTC 250

- I. Call to Order by Dr. Riggs at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Roll Call : **Present:** Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. L. Brown, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. P. Hoang, Dr. J. Killburn, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. Sung, Mr. B., Townsend, Dr. M. Vargas, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. W. Riggs
- III. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.
- IV. Our guests Dr. Pablo Arenaz, Dr. Tom Mitchell and Mr. Juan Castillo were given the floor to speak about the merit process for the coming year.

- This is the first year that we are doing the mid-year merit and emails should be sent out sometime the following week and these emails will constitute the System's Annual Letters of Appointment, which is the same process as took place last year. Promotions went into affect Sept. 1 and yearly salary will go into affect Dec. 1. Merit will go into affect Jan. 1. Corpus and TAMIU were the only 2 Institutes that were given the go-ahead to grant up to 3% merit.

- TAMIU had to cut 10% from our 10-11 Appropriation which amounted to \$2.5 million. We did \$1 million in 2010 and will do \$1.5 million in 2011. It is possible that more could be cut in 2011, but we are not sure (numbers as high as 25% were mentioned)..

- For this Fall, merit for filled lines went to the Deans for implementation and merit from unfilled lines were used by the Provost to pay for promotions and to make equity adjustments. The statement was made that it is the Faculty's perception is that the Administrator's salary get a disproportionate amount of merit. It was explained that the Faculty receive all of the merit generated by Faculty and the Administrator's have a different pool of monies from which they receive merit. It was also mentioned that merit for Faculty is actually between 0 and 6% to allow for equity adjusts and that merit is based on a percentage and not fixed amounts in order to try to avoid salary compression.

- The question was asked as to when we can expect the Loop Road to be completed. The response was November the 18th. There are also plans in the works to change University Blvd. to include a designated right hand lane.

- There was a request made to the Faculty Senate to assist in the promotion of the passing of the Athletics Fee. This would replace \$1.2 million in designated tuition that is currently used to fund athletics. Voting will take place on the first week of December.

- There was also a request that Faculty participate in the Chancellor's Teacher Recognition Award program.

- The announcement was made that Steve Ogden, the Chair of Senate Finance, will be on campus on Nov. 10th for a town hall meeting in Rm 166 of the WHTS.

V. Monica Munoz was officially welcomed to the Faculty Senate.

VI. COAS PP&E vote

- The Agenda was altered while our Guest Dr. Mitchell was present to answer questions about the COAS PP&E proposal. This proposal was voted in favor previously by the College Faculty. Discussion was made about the weight of the Chair's evaluation in the PP&E and that there appears to be no established criteria for the Chair's portion of the evaluation. A motion was made and seconded to present the previously approved proposal to the President for his approval. This was approved unanimously. A second motion was made to accept the current proposal as is, with the informal suggestion that the Dean of COAS begin to look at some of the issues that were brought up about the current proposal. The motion was voted on and passed, 11 for - to 2 against.

VII. Old Business

Ombudsman status - The question was presented to the Faculty Senate as to who would run the selection process, the Provost's Office or the Senate? It was agreed that the Senate do so, but that the application process should be completed by Christmas break.

Administrator Evaluation Update - The Committee met and made some minor changes dealing with redundancies and will meet next Friday to try to have something to present to the Faculty soon. The Faculty Senate should and will be included in these evaluations.

Student Evaluation Update - Discussion was made as to using the Chancellor's Teacher Award Recognition questions as the standard questions for the Faculty Evaluation with the addition of a few relevant questions per discipline. It was decided that the Senate would explore this option for the future possibility of bringing it to the Faculty for a vote and that Senate members should present it to their colleges / departments for discussion.

Provost Advisory Council Updates - Trying currently to deal with the discrepancies between annual Faculty Evaluations and the Tenure Review to see if they can be brought into better alignment.

VIII. Committee Reports - suspended for this meeting.

IX. Discussion Items

- 2010-2011 Agenda/Faculty Agenda Questionnaires - It was suggested that the Senate look closely at the previous 33 question questionnaire to establish the new agenda. Dr. Riggs agreed to give a follow-up on responses to those questions by the Provost and the President.

- The Senate still has to come up with a working definition of an Administrator for the handbook and for the more sensitive committees.

- Dr. Rhodes was our Representative to this year's Texas Council of Faculty Senates and gave a report on this meeting.

- Some universities have a very hard time with Media and Higher Education in that there is a very adversarial relationship between the two and that we should try to cultivate them more in some fashion.
- Our Faculty roundup questions were presented to the Texas Council as part of our report.
- There was an excellent power-point presentation given on low-producing programs in Texas that is available from Dr. Rhodes.
- We need to pay our dues to them.

X. A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved at 3:04 p.m.