

Faculty Senate Meeting

1 April 2011
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm
WHTC 250

- I. Call to Order by Mr. Townsend at 12:06 p.m.
- II. Roll Call, **Present:** Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. J. Kilburn, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. A. Moran, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. Sung, Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Vargas
- III. The minutes of the March meeting will be sent electronically for approval.
- IV. Our guests; Drs. Keck, Arenaz, Norris and Plank were given the floor.

Dr. Keck:

- Nothing new to report on the budget issues. The Senate will probably not have their version on the budget completed until late April.
- Dr. Norris was asked to talk about the new motto that she and Dr. Keck have been working on for TAMIU. The Senate voted and endorsed unanimously the idea that we develop a new motto.

Dr. Arenaz:

- Announced that the Fall Commencement Ceremony will be held on the Green this year. It will be broken into two events; College of Education and College Business at 9:00 am and the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Nursing at 8:00 pm.
- TAMIU has in its catalog a computer literacy requirement that is no longer applicable to our students today. A proposal was made to get rid of the computer literacy course as a requirement for graduation. The Senate voted unanimously to endorse this recommendation.

Dr. Plank:

- Made announcements for events under mentoring and the Title V grant:
 - April 6th a consultant will be here to visit with students, faculty and staff about mentoring and will host a brown bag on April 6th from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. in WHTC 125 on peer mentoring.
 - On the Friday and in conjunction with the LBV Conference there will be a Cognitive Psychology expert who will be giving a presentation on 'Emotion, Cognitive Compliance and Cognitive Psychology.
 - On April 14th & 15th a Title V: Engaging Sophomores Conference will be held at TAMIU featuring Dr. Barbara Tobolowskey and Dr. Laurie Schreiner, 2 internationally known authors and lecturers on sophomore success.

V. Old Business

Faculty Handbook revisions:

- Mr. Maxstadt presented a handout on current Handbook revisions from the Faculty Handbook Committee::

- Revising the Preface to the Handbook; the new Preface was voted on and approved unanimously.
- A handout was given on 8 Handbook changes that were made in 2009 and that were put on hold until the new Handbook was reorganized and reedited.

1) Adoption of P&T Assessment Process - approved unanimously by vote to adopt and insert this section into the Handbook

2) Removal of "Committee of Professors" - approved unanimously by vote to remove all mention of the "Committee of Professors" from the Handbook

3) Correction of Conflicting Descriptions of UPTR Committee - this item was tabled because it fixed in the new Handbook

4) List of procedural steps for grievance hearings - approved unanimously by vote to insert this in the 'Grievance section' of the Handbook.

5) Remediation on post-tenure review - this item was tabled

6) Phasing Out of Programs or Financial Exigencies - this item was tabled

7) Terms of Faculty Senators and Officers - approved unanimously by vote

8) Mentorship Program - the description of this change will be sent to Faculty Senate members for an e-vote.

- A modification was requested to make a change in the currently approved Handbook wording regarding Faculty teaching doctoral seminars and course release time. A recommendation was made to consult with those faculty who are involved with teaching doctoral seminars to get feedback before proceeding to send any modifications to the wording. A suggestion was made to send this to the faculty for feedback and then table this for discussion and voting in May.

- Ombudmans Report:

- Dr. Rhodes reported that we have 2 nominations for the Ombudsman position; Dr. Chris Ferguson and Dr. Frances Rhodes. The position is still currently open for nominations.

- Two resolutions were sent by Texas Counsel of Faculty Senates Meeting; one regarding hand guns at universities and the other budget reduction and faculty workload, were presented to the Senate for a vote of endorsement. The Senate voted unanimously to endorse both of these resolutions.

VI. New Business

- A discussion on the issue of requesting letters of external support for tenure applications proceeded. The Provost currently requires external support letters for promotion to Full Professor and would like to extend this as a requirement for all applications for tenure. There was concern mentioned that in those fields where research was not a major component, those individuals would be put at a distinct disadvantage by having such a requirement. The suggestion was made that if we (the Senate) take ownership of this possible 'requirement' then we would be involved in helping to set the rules and if we don't take ownership then the rules may be set by others. It was decided that this be taken to the faculty to gather an overall consensus before continuing with further discussion.

- Dr. Rhodes announced that she will be putting out announcements for all committee positions that need to be filled for the coming academic year.

VII. Committee Reports

- Committee reports were tabled for this meeting.

VIII. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm. The motion was seconded and approved.