

Faculty Senate Meeting

1 Feb 2013

12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

WHTC 126

- I. Call to Order by President Townsend at 12:07 p.m.
- II. Roll Call, **Present:** Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. H. Mandal, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. M. Muñoz, Dr. Q. Ni, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. San Miguel, Dr. M. Vargas
- III. Our guests were given the floor:

Dr. Arenaz:

- We are up about 1.5% in enrollment and about the same in credit hour production. We need to boost the numbers up because this is base period.

- The base budgets are out; in the Senate we are ~ \$700,000 behind from the last biennium and in the House we are behind ~ \$1.3 million. One of the primary goals of the A&M System is to restore formula funding to its previous levels. There is ongoing talk about adding more money to higher-education, but no specific amount was given at the recent Senate Finance Committee meeting. What has been predicted to happen is: (1) at least 10% of appropriations are going to be tied to outcomes based funding and (2) they want to go to a guaranteed 'flat tuition' for students for 4 years. Also, the System is trying to expand the Course Exchange Program, where students can take course(s) elsewhere that we do not offer or that we no longer offer and receive credit here for those course(s).

- The ranking on Tuition Revenue Bonds has come out and we are in the middle category, so there is a possibility that we may get a TRB or two.

- We will soon have systemwide access to NBC Learn; digital archives of NBC going back to the 1920's that can be embedded into course work for our students.

- There was discussion on getting the Faculty more involved in FLIP classes; where the students view the lectures online before hand and then either do the homework or concentrate more on the students' weaknesses during class time.

Guests from the Office of Student Affairs:

- The Senate was presented with a schedule of events for TAMU Spirit Week (February 4th - 6th) and a schedule of invited lectures for February's Black History Month. The Senate was also asked to invite the Faculty to participate in some of the events including the 'SGA Shopping Cart Parade' which will take place during Spirit Week on February the 5th.

- It was also announced that the Office of Student Affairs will host the Student Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) which will provide free tax preparation to the community from January 31st to April 11th.

Ms. Paul (TAMIU Compliance Officer):

- Presented the Senate with the proposed, revised System Policy 08.01.01 “Civil Rights Compliance” which now includes a definition and a policy on “Improper Consensual Relationships”.

Dr. Blackwell (TAMIU Honor Council):

- Dr. Blackwell presented two recommendations from the Honor Council for the Senate to approve by a vote:

- To increase the faculty membership of the Honor Council from its current 4 members to 7 members. **This was voted on and approved unanimously.**

- Approval by the Senate of the following faculty to serve on the Honor Council as At-Large faculty Members; Dr. Ananda Mukherji, Dr. Bernice Sanchez and Dr. Mark Menaldo. **This was voted on and approved unanimously.**

IV. Other Business

An article was provided to the Senate on “The Role of the Faculty in Conditions of Financial Exigency”, taken from the American Association of University Professors, for discussion and consideration for Senate endorsement. A motion was made to send this document to Administration for feedback and this was **voted on and approved unanimously.**

V. Committee Reports

No reports were provided, but the list has been included at the end of this document on items from the Faculty Senate Questionnaire, Spring 2012 that were voted on for action in the December 2012 Faculty Senate meeting.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Faculty Senate Questionnaire Spring 2012

1. Connect faculty with administration - **Morale & Welfare**
2. Bring back Teaching / Research Track - **tabled for later**
11. How to handle faculty being harassed by students via email / phone (not addressed in handbook) - **forward to Student Government Association**
13. Closer oversight of official and unofficial committees - **Committee on Committee's**
17. Low faculty morale - **Morale & Welfare**
23. Mentoring (mentioned 5 times) - **Morale & Welfare and open to continued Senate discussion**
30. Promote / support faculty related activities to increase connection with each other and university - **Morale & Welfare**
37. Clear departmentally defined contract terms for non-tenure faculty - **Senate**
41. Improve transparency in faculty evaluation and PTR process - **Assessment**
42. Senate should develop a FAQ page and a form that people can fill in to ask about situations that may have already been arbitrated on campus. - **Senate**