

Faculty Senate Meeting

November 1, 2013

12:05 hrs - 14:19 hrs

WHTC Room125

I. Call to Order by President Dr. A. Ramirez at 12:05 hrs.**II. Roll Call, Present:** Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. H. Mandal, Dr. L. Manganaro, J. Maxstadt, Dr. A. Moran, Dr. Q. Ni, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. G. Salinas, Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. M. Vargas.**III. Approval of Minutes**

- A vote was taken to approve the Minutes of the October's Senate meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

Dr. Keck:

The board of regents did not allow tuition increases. From fall 2014 onwards, tuition will be frozen for 12 semesters. Tuition will be estimated based on initial tuition plus a 2% increase per year compounded. There is pressure from the TAMU system for compliance. As a result, we need to determine which system regulations need to be "translated" into rules to increase the fitting with system policy. Partly as a product of ongoing education's dynamics, there will be an increase in hybrid degree programs.

Dr. Arenaz:

The University is undertaking recruitment activities beyond its traditional region. There seems to be some concern, at the system level, that the post-tenure review process is not strict enough. The legislative liaison will be shared with Texas A&M Kingsville. It is likely that part of information technology will move to the system. Although some courses, to be taught during the spring 2014, will last 12 weeks such courses ought to encompass 42 to 45 hours of instruction.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Graduate Faculty Status TAMIU Policy. The need to change The Faculty Handbook to include fixed-term (12.07) faculty was discussed. It was proposed to request a justification endorsed by the department/division chair and to discuss, on a case by case basis, what makes fixed-term faculty worth. The Faculty Handbook Committee will write a proposal on this issue.

B. Guidelines for Faculty Emeritus Status. After discussing the draft produced by the Assessment Committee, it was agreed to add onto page 24 of the Faculty Handbook the paragraph about general considerations and to refer the guidelines, that is, the remainder of the document proposed, in the Provost website.

VI. New Business

A. Thirteen point grading system. To further explore the possibility of adopting such grading system, it is necessary, among others, to involve in the discussion faculty and students as well as to consider what the system rule is on this matter. The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with researching the latter.

B. Selection of Student Fee Advisory Committee representative. It was agreed that Dr. M. Vargas will represent the Senate in this committee.

C. Selection of Budget Advisory Committee representative. It was agreed that Mr. B. Townsend will represent the Senate in this committee.

D. Professional Development Plan for Post-tenure Review. Some current, and past, development plans seem too complicated. It is necessary to develop general guidelines, best practices, and to determine, in a feasible manner, what will need to be done. The Work Environment Committee was charged with developing, taking into account the above considerations, what will constitute a professional development plan.

E. Grievance Form. It was noted that there is no grievance form in the Provost's website. TAMU's grievance form may be considered for adoption.

F. Mr. J. Maxstadt indicated that there are copies in the library of Mr. J. Selingo's book. Likewise, a free kindle version of such book may be obtained if the faculty member has an Amazon account.