

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

March 7, 2014

12:31 hrs - 14:39 hrs

WHTC Room 125

I. Call to Order by President Ramirez at 12:31 hrs.

II. Roll Call, Present: Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, V. Garcia, Dr. L. Manganaro, Dr. H. Mandal, J. Maxstadt, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. Q. Ni, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. G. Salinas, B. Townsend, and Dr. M. Vargas. Moran

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. University Guest Speakers and Presentations:

Dr. D. Blackwell:

An updated version of the Student Honor Code was presented. After discussing it, several amendments were suggested. A vote was taken to approve the revised Student Honor Code. The proposed new version of the Student Honor Code was approved unanimously with revisions.

V. Faculty Senate President Report

- Dr. Ramirez indicated that he will continue sharing with faculty his notes on the University Executive Council meetings. Dr. Ramirez mentioned that it is expected that TAMU and other universities of the A&M system will produce "splashes"-events with a high image impact in the community.

VI. Reports from Committee Chairs

-Faculty Handbook Revision Committee. J. Maxstadt reported the results of a meeting of this committee with Dr. Arenaz. In such meeting, standard administrative procedures (SAPs) were discussed. It was explained that SAP production stems from a system initiative on compliance. For most SAPs, the text has been taken from the Faculty Handbook. In some cases, there have been minor changes due to the need to observe compliance with, among others, state law. There was an agreement between this committee and Dr. Arenaz that faculty will play a role in updating SAPs. A vote was taken to agree, in principle, to refer SAPs in the Faculty Handbook since they will replace sections of it. Such proposal was approved unanimously.

- Distance Education Committee. The University will use the Blackboard system in Spring 2015. There will be some pilot courses in Fall 2014. There was an increase in the compensation received by faculty for creating online courses.

#### VII. Unfinished Business

-University Awards. J. Maxstadt presented a revised version of the University Awards section of the Faculty Handbook. The updated version was discussed. It was agreed that for the Scholar of the Year award, the last three calendar years of scholarly work will be considered.

#### VIII. New Business

- The instrument used to evaluate administrators seems to require slightly changing few questions.
- A proposal about a new University grading system will be produced taking into account Dr. Manganaro's suggestions.
- Election of Faculty Senate's new members will take place in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:39 hrs.