

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
October 3, 2014  
12:05 to**

**WHTC Room 125**

**I. Call to Order** by President Dr. A. Ramirez at 12:05 hours.

**II. Roll Call, Present:** Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Dr. Marcela Moran, Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Qinghien Ni, Dr. Brendan Townsend, Dr. George Clarke, Mr. John Maxstadt, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. Vivian Garcia

**III. Approval of Minutes** Approval of minutes was postponed.

**IV. Our guests were given the floor:**

**Ms. Mayra G. Hernandez, Director of Student Conduct & Community Engagement** brought a presentation by the Student Government Association LOVE committee regarding a new initiative that is aimed at

**Dr. Pablo Arenaz:**

Discussed anticipating the upcoming legislative session in January, 2015. Dr. Keck will be testifying before the higher education committee in the House discussing students who come to the university with college credit, such as the HB1 (concurrent enrollment) students, early college high school students, etc.

The A&M System will take up the issue of tuition and fee increases at their upcoming November meeting. A request of 2% increase in tuition, which will only affect the incoming freshman class of 2016, will be decided. The Student Fee Advisory committee will be meeting this afternoon. Kimber Palmer from the Senate was appointed by President Ramirez to said committee.

Start dates for faculty were [see September meeting minutes] discussed, with the need to address this in faculty contracts.

The doctoral program in Criminal Justice is on track for approval in the near future.

Kimber Palmer raised the issue of some faculty being asked to teach back-to-back classes resulting in a schedule some days of 5-8 hours without a break. This appears to be a problem for some in the College of Arts and Science, in particular for fixed term faculty. Dr. Arenaz stated the faculty should discuss the issue with their chair, and if no satisfaction was received, then their dean. He did state that was not appropriate for anyone to have such schedule of several classes in a row, without a break.

There is declining enrollment at the system level. Here at TAMIU, we are experiencing a decline in enrollment in our graduate programs, although there has been growth recently in the ARSSB graduate programs.

Another concern is the loss in attrition of approximately 750-800 juniors and seniors, who are eligible to enroll in the university, but fail to do so. A task force has been created to address this issue. In November, there will be a campus-wide “Junior Week” that will include the wall ceremony in the Zaffarini Center.

Merit increases will occur in paychecks distributed December 1, 2014.

The plans for the expansion of the Rec Center will be completed in the near future.

In response to a question from Brendan Townsend regarding the approval of tuition revenue bonds, Dr. Arenaz stated there is no word on whether or not they will be approved.

**Ms. San Juanita Perez and Ms. Teresa Renn** informed the Senate about an upcoming program initiated by Student Affairs: the Safe Zone training that are workshops for the university community regarding issues that face the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) student. Education is the goal, with the creation of “a more tolerant community” where those persons can feel safe to express themselves. Members of the senate suggested a more varied schedule of trainings, since professors usually have classes on either M/W or T/Th, so offering the trainings on both sets of days might allow more to attend.

#### **V. Faculty Senate President Report on Executive Council Meetings**

President Ramirez wishes to go forward with an all-faculty meeting in the near future. It was determined that October 28 at 4:30 p.m. might be the best option. The agenda will include a discussion and request for input from the whole faculty on the issue of changing the grading scale. The President will schedule the meeting and obtain a room, and let us know.

He reported on the efforts to seek loans to faculty who are starting in August, but not receiving pay until October 1. While the response from the administration was there was no precedent for such a program, members were not satisfied that such a program could not be created. Kimber Palmer and President Ramirez committed to looking into the issue some more.