

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 2, 2015
WHTC 215

I. Call to Order (time): 12:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Dr. Marvin Bennett, Mr. David Bogus, Dr. George Clarke, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Ms. Destine Holmgreen, Dr. Lynne Manganaro, Mr. John Maxstadt, Dr. David Milovich, Ms. Marcela Morán, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Maria Lourdes Viloria, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

Not present: Dr. Katie Lewis, Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, following minor corrections.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

A. Sylvia Hinojosa, representing the TAMIU Honor Council made a presentation regarding the training of the student members of the Council. The students undergo leadership-style training, retreats, and monthly meetings following the standards of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. They utilize the book Strengths Based Leadership by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie.

B. Griz Zimmerman- along with student athlete Steven Martinez, Mr. Zimmerman, TAMIU athletic director greeted the Senate. Mr. Zimmerman was particularly proud of the fact that of the three major councils which deal with athletics on a national level, TAMIU has representation on two of them. Mr. Zimmerman requested the faculty communicate with him regarding any concerns we may have regarding our student athletes.

IV. Faculty Senate President Report on Executive Council Meeting-

While most of the information from the Executive Council Meetings has been previously provided to faculty via the email memos, Dr. Clarke spoke about a few things that are in the spotlight of the Executive Council:

1. Regarding the TAMIU website- we need to move toward a website that is mainly for the university's interaction with the public, and have an intra-university website, such as UConnect, for university business.
2. Continuing efforts regarding the development of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary degrees. These degrees will be housed in the University College. Senators expressed concern that these may weaken, or "cannibalize" our existing programs. Also, it appears the degrees will be made up of existing courses and essentially bundled together to form these hybrid degrees. If so, it is possible that we would be offering, say, a degree in sports management without offering a course in sports management. This also raises another concern was whether these students would be taking higher level courses without having taken the prerequisites. In this regard and in order to study the issue, the matter was referred and assigned to the Academic Oversight Committee, which was asked to meet and discuss the issue before our October meeting.

3. The issue of the development of our Engineering program is currently of concern. Ken Tobin shared that the earliest the program could expect to receive accreditation from the Accrediting Board of Engineering Technology was the fall of 2017. Apparently College Station is opening an engineering program in McAllen, and concern is that will diminish the acceptance of an engineering program here.
4. For a further listing of issues the Executive Council is working on Dr. Clarke shared an email from Dr. Keck, which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit "A."

VI. Faculty Senate Vice-President Report on Provost Council Meetings

John Maxstadt provided a report on the recent Provost Council Meeting:

- We are nearing the completion of the new Strategic Plan.
- Regarding spring 2016 schedule, the Provost stated we do not have enough MWF classes. If we do not fully utilize our classrooms on Fridays it will weaken our case for needing more classrooms
- We will have a speaker at the spring retreat that will speak to us about Signature Courses
- Phi Kappa Phi will be having brown bag sessions.
- The law currently allows firearms on campus, but they must remain in the owner's vehicle. The law may change and allow open carry on campus. This is an issue we will have to deal with.
- Representative Cuellar hosted a round table, with the TAMU Bi-national Center, regarding communication of issues arising of concern to local governments and oil companies and oil production.

VII. Reports from Committee Chairs

A. The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, Mr. John Maxstadt:

1. Last semester, the Senate passed the following qualifications for members of the Graduate Faculty:

For temporary membership

"The length of membership of an appointment for temporary membership as a graduate faculty member should be changed from one semester period to one academic year."

For full membership

"Full members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- Be tenured or on a tenure track on the Texas A&M International faculty;
- Hold the rank of Fixed Term, or "12.07" faculty, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor;
- Have earned a doctorate or other terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline; and
- Produce continued tangible evidence of continued productive scholarship, as normally defined within the discipline concerned.

Full members are appointed to the Graduate Faculty for a term of five years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Full Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to direct masters' theses, and other graduate research;

- Teach graduate level courses, including doctoral;
- Serve on graduate student committees, including doctoral;
- Sit on the Graduate Council and in that position help set policies for the Office of Graduate Studies:
- Sit on standing and special committees of the Graduate Council;
- Serve as officers (secretary, etc.) of the Graduate Council; and,
- Chair standing committees of the Graduate Council.

To chair a doctoral dissertation committee, a faculty member must be tenured or tenure track and hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor.”

Dr. Jeff Brown pointed out that the first two bullet points of full membership contain qualifications of the Graduate Faculty is inconsistent, and needed to be addressed. The committee recommended, and Mr. Maxstadt made a motion that of the above language, only the sentence:

“For temporary membership

“The length of membership of an appointment for temporary membership as a graduate faculty member should be changed from one semester period to once academic year.”

Be adopted, with no change to the original membership qualifications.

The motion was seconded by Leonel Prieto. The motion carried with the vote as follows: for-7 and against- 6.

2. The following language has been proposed to be added to the Faculty Handbook:

“Illegal Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Related Retaliation

TAMIU strictly prohibits all forms of illegal discrimination, sexual harassment (which includes sexual violence, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), and related retaliation. All faculty members are requested to report alleged or suspected illegal discrimination, sexual harassment, and/or related retaliation that they experience, observe, or are made aware of. Reports can be made to a supervisor, and administrator, the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, or the University Police Department. More information is available in TAMUS Policy 8.01 and System Regulation 8.01.01

Improper Consensual Relationships

The definition of “improper consensual relationship” and information about reporting obligations are available in System Regulation 8.01.01.”

* * *

“Student Leave of Absence and Pregnant/Parenting Students

As required by Title IX, TAMIU provides leaves of absence for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the TAMIU Attendance Rule and Student Leave of Absence rule (which includes a Leave of Absence Request form). Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook. If you receive a request for a leave of absence from a student, including pregnant/parenting students, please promptly report it to and seek guidance from the Office of Student Affairs.”

The following language is proposed to be removed:

“Sexual Harassment

The employment and educational environment of the University shall be free from all forms of sexual discrimination and sexual harassment. Conduct constituting sexual harassment is specifically prohibited and will result in appropriate sanctions. Sexual harassment is treated as a form of discrimination, and is addressed in TAMUS Policy 8.01 and System Regulation 8.01.01”

Without objection the language was approved.

B. Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morale

Ken Tobin, Chair, delivered the report for the committee. In light of the committee’s assignment pertaining to increasing the usability of UConnect, the committee proposes to send a survey to the whole faculty body in which the following question is asked:

“How could UConnect be improved to make it more user friendly?”

With no objection, the survey question was approved.

Pertaining to enhancing the review of the Teacher of the Year and Scholar of the Year the committee proposes the following timeline:

Proposed Timeline for the SoY and ToY 2015-2016

December 1- Open nominations at Department level for SoY and ToY

January 25- Close nominations, including self-nominations, for SoY and ToY

January 25- Obtain input from Academic Deans on who would be good Ad Hoc ToY committee members.

February 1- Departmental P&T Committee makes recommendations for SoY and ToY to Chair who forwards to College P&T Committee

February 15- College P&T Committee makes recommendation for SoY and ToY to Faculty Senate

March 4 – April 15- Ad Hoc Committee conducts classroom visits of College ToY nominees

April 15- Ad Hoc ToY Committee issues final report to Senate.

May 6- Faculty Senate votes on SoY and ToY

No further reports were given.

Upon motion and second, the Senate voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

EXHIBIT A

MAIN EC AGENDA ITEMS FROM PRESIDENT KECK – FALL 2015

Note: List is From EC Agenda Meetings

1. Web Committee..... good first meeting. Serious impediment: not enough hands helping the Webmaster. Strategy: MIS and OIT contacts with students desiring work. Steve, Brian, please get with Steve Harmon to ensure that this move forward.
2. Transfer and recruitment. Both in process for new approach. RFP..... Minita and Gina, Juan and Trevor. This needs to get out right away. This week.
3. Multi-and transdisciplinary possibilities. We need some examples to tell counselors about on September 15th. That is a week from today. Yes, this will mostly be called “multidisciplinary,” but that is not the name to advertise to students. We need more specific words like business-health care, sports-communication. Conchita, your group is working on the overall plan for this. In anticipation of meeting with counselors, please compile a list, as far as we can see today, of what students might find possible.
4. Engineering. Pablo, we can’t go another year promising. This accreditation issue must get done as soon as possible.
5. Strategic Plan. Chelelo, Miguel, Ned. The draft is due in October. Please let us know what we need to do to move this forward.
6. Agreements in pharmacy and engineering. The latter is, I think, in train. The former is still talk. Let’s do it.
7. We have access to data and intelligence concerning enrollment; we haven’t to date accessed it and then formed a plan.
 - a. Jeff, please look at graduate enrollment across the System. In what context do our numbers fall? Is there a trend up? Down? Who is enjoying the former? Why? Please share your findings with the group, including your plan for us.
 - b. Catheryn, please do the same for education. Where are we in a three-year trajectory? Where is everyone else? Why up or why down or why static, we and they? Given what is happening in our sister schools and across the state, what is your plan for us?
 - c. Steve, the same question for Schools of Business. What is our trend? And then, in what context does that fall? Your plan?
8. KLRN event in late April. The documentary on Laredo, diversity, global identity, music. Production, planning, funding.
9. Chancellor’s research initiative and monies to attract research faculty. To whom have we made offers? How will we participate in this opportunity? .