

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 4, 2015  
WHTC 206

I. Call to Order (time): 12:00 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. Alfredo Ramirez, Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Ms. Maria Lourdes Vilorio, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

**Not present:** Dr. Katie Lewis

**Guests:** Dr. Stephen Duffy, Dr. Ray Keck, Dr. Pablo Arenaz

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting will be held for approval to the next meeting.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

A. Dr. Ray Keck:

- KLRN is doing a documentary piece on Laredo as a place of confluence of cultures and ethnicities- many diverse cultures coming here due to their work or business. They need donors to fund it, estimated at \$198,000.00. It will include the Mariachi Festival and narrative about Laredo, illustrated with music.
- The new building is coming along- bids are in. Will cost \$11 million.
- A&M Law school is partnering with TAMIU and are sending representatives here in a few weeks.
- David Killam's sister wants to open a Center for Spirituality and Wellness here at TAMIU. They (the Killams) will fund it.
- Dr. Keck received a letter from the president of Yale University inviting him to visit there. They have a program where university faculty help high school teachers, and they want us to help facilitate such a program here in Laredo. It would be pure content, rather than pedagogy. We would set up the program using their template or model. This is similar to Humanities Texas.
- Faculty Spring Assembly will take place on January 19, 2016- we will hear from Brent Iverson the dean of UG students at UT Austin about signature courses.
- TAMIU has been loaned a St. John Bible to display, with all the display cases. There are only 90 of them in the world. It will be housed in the Great Room.

## B. Dr. Pablo Arenaz

- Commencement speaker at the first two sessions will be Sergio Alcocer, the Mexican Under Secretary of State for NA. He is an engineer.

## IV. Faculty Senate President Report on Executive Council Meeting-

Information from the Executive Council Meeting has been previously provided through faculty email by President George Clarke.

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

John Maxstadt reported there had not been a Provost Council meeting since our last meeting.

- The committee approved the new addition of the University Catalog Committee which will be

## VII. Committee Reports

- **Faculty Handbook Committee-** John Maxstadt reported that the committee had approved the proposed additional committees as proposed by Dr. Arenaz. Jim Norris moved the following as to the charge of the new catalog committee:  
“Any changes made to the front matter of the catalog- other than academic program information- which is the charge of the University Curriculum Committee—should reside with the new committee.”
- There were no other committee reports.

## VII. New Business

George Clarke shared an email he received from Dr. Lindberg regarding the evaluation of baccalaureate programs. The email requested the Senate approve a list of faculty who would be the reviewers of the various programs. Upon discussion of the matter, several questions arose. Senate members were unsure of the process and procedure of the evaluation program, and what the reviewers would be called upon to do and whether they had agreed to become involved in the process. One faculty senate member noted that her name was on the list, but she had not been aware she had been nominated and she had not received any information about the process. It was also noted that the potential reviewers

included only faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences; questions arose as to whether this is by design, or if faculty from other colleges will be included in this process.

Though concern was expressed for our reservations in approving a list would cause delay, John Maxstadt moved, and James Norris seconded, that the Faculty Senate respond to Dr. Lindberg's request by asking for additional information concerning the tasks of these nominees so that the Senate can better assess whether they are a good fit for this nomination and whether the Senate needs to be involved in the review process.

The motion was passed by a majority vote.

In the meantime, the Senate by consensus agreed they were willing to do an electronic vote on the reviewers if further information can be sent to us through email.