

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
January, 2016  
WHTC 125

**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. Katie Lewis, 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. Gilberto Salinas, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Ms., Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

**Not present:** Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, Ms. Maria Lourdes Vilorio

**Guests:** Dr. Pablo Arenaz, Dr. Kevin Lindberg, Dr. Stephen Duffy

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the November, 2015 and December, 2015 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved.

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

**A. Dr. Pablo Arenaz**

The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs has reviewed our institutional data and “we are fine.” The next meeting of this committee will be to review our institutional learning outcomes.

Signature courses are underway and will be offered Fall, 2016, and Dr. Lindberg will discuss them in more detail.

Dr. Conchita Hickey is retiring May, 2016. Dean of COE, Dr. Catherine Weitman, will move over to the University College to replace Dr. Hickey. A search for a new COE dean will begin in the near future.

February 22-25 will be STEM week on campus. High school students will be visiting campus and participating in many activities involving STEM and STEM fields.

Discover TAMIU is coming up in March.

Dr. Arenaz was asked who sets the date for spring break for TAMIU; he replied that TAMIU uses the spring break date used by the local school districts.

**B. Dr. Kevin Lindberg**

1. Our retention rate for freshmen from Fall, 2015 to Spring, 2016 was 94%, which was the highest retention rate ever. The president wants to move quickly on Signature Courses and have some in place for academic year 2016-2017. We will start them with teaching them as the second semester freshman year required course. This plan has been approved by the core curriculum committee.

This will fit in the core by using it as the “institutional option,” which is given by the legislature to each institution to do with as they please. Currently we are using our “institutional option” by having 3 hours of a communication course or a 1 hour lab and a 2 hour UNIV course. We will remove the 3 hours of communication and replace it with a 4 hour signature course—(UNIV 1402) - a lecture 1 time per week and 2 hours of recitation sessions per week. Our current UNIV 1102 would be folded into UNIV 1402, and it will be a WIN course and will include a research and presentation component.

Dr. Lindberg invites any questions regarding signature courses.

2. Dr. Lindberg was asked about the program review issue that arose last meeting. He explained that each academic program must be reviewed at least every seven years for: AIER reports, demographic and statistical information, etc. and the date is to be used to improve the program. Previously, we were asked to approve a list of reviewers for this purpose, but we were not aware of what the purpose of the reviewers' task would be. Therefore, Dr. Lindberg will send out another call for reviewers, especially from other colleges besides COAS.

#### **V. 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, but a discussion of signature courses arose. Faculty raised the concern that UNIV would become basically TAs (teacher assistants). John Maxstadt raised the concern about the library's component to them, and pointed out that they are required to have the library instruction that is currently included in UNIV 1102. Then a concern for the heavy writing load on the students, and the UNIV faculty that would have to bear the brunt of that load. If others were going to grade the writing assignments, would they be adequately qualified to do so?

A motion was made by John Maxstadt:

We, the Faculty Senate, request that since the faculty of UNIV will be teaching and/or otherwise involved in the signature courses, that they be significantly represented on any committee or in any decision-making process regarding the content, delivery, and assessment of these signature courses.

The motion was seconded by Marvin Bennett, and unanimously approved.

- Our SACS accreditation was approved.
- The A&M law school is working with TAMU to deliver a law school course here at TAMU during the Maymester. A small number of our students will be allowed to take the course. It will basically cover social and legal issues arising in border communities.

## **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.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- Assessment Committee- Chair Kimber Palmer reported that the Senate is moving forward to conduct the administration assessment by faculty soon after the Spring Break. It was decided that should faculty wish to prepare the evaluation by hand, they may do so.
- Distance education and instructional technology committee- Chair Dr. Norris reported that Dr. Abrego is going to be showcasing each month a faculty member who uses instructional technology in their courses.
- Committee on faculty work environment and morale- Chair Ken Tobin noted that a reminder needs to be sent to the deans of the different colleges for nominations of people to do the teaching observations of the Teacher of the Year nominations.

## **VII. New Business**

Due to personal concerns, Dr. Lynne Manganaro resigned as Elections Officer. Dr. Clarke suggested that if she would be willing, he would like Dr. Frances Rhodes to retake that the position. Dr. Rhodes agreed, and she was elected by acclamation of the Senate.

Dr. Clarke requested volunteers to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee come forth.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.