

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 4, 2016
WHTC 125

- I. **Call to Order** by Dr. Kenneth Tobin at 12:06 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call: Present:** Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. Frances Rhodes, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Dr. Puneet Gill, Ms. Destine Holmgreen, Dr. David Milovich, Ms. Marcela Moran, Dr. Lola Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez, Dr. Oswaldo Zapata
- III. **Our Guest was given the floor:**

Dr. Pablo Arenaz:

We are working on several educational collaborations with other organizations:

- a 3/3 yr. for our students with the Pharmacy School at Kingsville;
- an agreement so that our sophomores could be transferred and admitted into the Texas A&M Law School;
- a branch campus at Queretaro City, Mexico; where they seem willing to construct a new building to house our visiting Faculty;
- to build a building on our campus in collaboration with LCC to start both an Oil and Gas program and a Water Quality program.

Dr. Arenaz requested that the Senate look into the possibility that we have a separate Teacher of the Year award for non-tenure track Faculty. He also requested that the Senate change the wording within the handbook to reflect the tenure track awards as being "Distinguished" to emphasize that the awards be considered over a greater time frame than a single year (a record of at least 3 years was suggested).

IV. **Welcome to our newest Senate members:**

Dr. Puneet Gill (COED, Dept. of Curriculum & Pedagogy) and Dr. Oswaldo Zapata (COAS, Dept. of Fine & Performing Arts) were welcomed as our newest Faculty Senate Representatives.

V. **Minutes of the October 7th Faculty Senate meeting were approved.**

VI. Old Business

Dr. Rhodes announced that all University Committee elections have been completed and fulfilled and that she will be sending out the final official listing during the coming week.

VII. New Business

It was proposed and agreed upon that the Senate conduct a Faculty Survey this fall. This will be conducted electronically in November in order to get feedback to the Senate on any issues that the Faculty may have on our campus.

Dr Tobin announced that he will be meeting with Drs. Karyn Miller and Stephen Duffy to discuss the wording of the new student evaluations that are currently under preparation. It was decided that the Senate should invite Dr. Miller to the December Senate meeting to continue the discussion on these student evaluations.

Ms. Kimber Palmer asked that the Senate look into the matter that both summer and overload pay have not been adjusted in years. Ms. Palmer also requested that the Senate forward to her any volunteers for the creation of an ad-hoc committee on Fixed-term Faculty in order to look into assembling a set of guidelines for their promotion.

VIII. Committee Reports

The Academic Oversight Committee - no report

The Budget and Finance Committee - no report

The University Ethics Committee - no report

The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees
- This committee met and finalized the roster for all University committees.

The Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morale no report
- Dr. Tobin announced that this Committee will met in the following week.

The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee
- This Committee met in order to continue making the approved Handbook changes.

The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee - no report

The Technology Advisory Committee
- This Committee met (see attached minutes) and will present their report in the December meeting.

The Assessment Committee - no report

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.