

TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

August 31, 2018; WHTC Rm 125

- I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Tobin at 12:05 p.m.
- II. *Roll Call:* Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. Frances Rhodes, Dr. George Clarke, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Dr. Jacob Makaya, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Marivic Torregosa, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio
- III. *Our Guests:* University President Dr. Pablo Arenaz, University Provost Dr. Tom Mitchell and University Athletic Director Mr. Gilbert 'Griz' Zimmermann were given the floor.

Dr. Arenaz

- Next Friday (Sept. 7th) is Freshman Convocation, for faculty it is business dress, not regalia.

- As of August 30th we had 8085 students registered. We are hoping for 8100-8200 because, with drops, that would give us over 8000 students enrolled. With a solid 8000 we will have a celebration.

- Our new building is going very well and when finished the College of Education will move into Pellegrino Hall, which will allow for the expansion of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. They have also been talking about moving the Tutoring and Writing Centers to the 4th floor of Killam Library, which would free up some spaces in Cowart Hall for offices, but this is not set in stone.

- We are in the preliminary stages of building a tower (120 to 130 feet high) which would go next to the new building and be visible across campus and from the Loop. Estimates for this new tower are anywhere from \$1 to \$3.5 million, so it may or may not fit into our future budget.

- We are putting the finishing touches on our policy for Title 9. There has been some confusion dealing with consensual relationships that is being worked on currently.

- Academically we are doing very well. The proposal for the General Engineering degree is in the A&M System right now and should go before the Board in the November meeting. There may be a problem with it on the Coordinating Board level but Dr. Arenaz is lining up local support to assist in this.

- 'Coffee with the President' will be continued this Fall. It has no agenda, all are welcome to come and ask questions and chat with Dr. Arenaz.

- Dr. Arenaz has had discussions with the Senate Execs about undergraduate curriculum and that the faculty should take ownership of the process to ensure that items which are passed make sense and do not cause any conflicts. Dr. Tobin stated that the Senate is going to form an *ad hoc* Committee on

Curriculum this year and will be holding further discussions with the President and the Provost as to the exact charges of that committee.

Dr. Mitchell

- Dr. Mitchell is very concerned about the scheduling of classes. In 2 weeks the Chairs will forward the class schedules to his office and they will be looked over with great care before they go to the Registrar's office to make sure that the schedules are what is best for our students. Scheduling must meet the degree-needs of the students and not just be based on 'popular' times for faculty or students. The scheduling should be spread out more to give students more choices and so they can finish their degree in a reasonable amount of time.

- We need to do a better job of updating curriculum and getting updates through the system as early as possible. Curriculum should be finished and into the catalog by March so that it is available for the students before they register for classes. Our current catalog is still not on the web and available for our students, mostly because changes related to AP are still ongoing.

- We also need to improve our timelines for faculty searches. We should not be interviewing candidates in April, all of the letters should be out by March. There were concerns from the Senate expressed that we can't see the applicants' information on Work Day yet and that is one of the problems holding up the hiring process.

Questions to Dr. Arenaz and Dr. Mitchell:

- Q: Do we have a completion date for the new buildings?

- A: New Police Dept./Receiving/Purchasing building should be done by December. The new Academic building should be done by the middle of the Spring and we should be able to take control of it by the end of the Spring semester. It will be officially opened in the Fall of 2019.

- Q: Can we have more reserved parking or the possibility of a parking garage?

- A: More parking should be opened once the new Academic building is completed and more parking spaces will be available if we do a better job of scheduling classes in the Spring, but a parking garage is far too cost-prohibitive for all.

Mr. Zimmermann

- Reported that 90 to 100 student athletes have a 3.0 grade point average or better and they are trying to improve on those very good numbers. They are also striving to reach the point where no student athlete has under a 2.0 average. Griz asked the Senate that if there is anything that he could do to help motivate the student athletes in their classes to please let him or his coaches know about it. Student athletes are also required to present their instructors with the appropriate letters for traveling and participating in sporting events.

The Senate expressed their group appreciation for all the fine work Griz is doing with our students.

IV. The meeting was paused momentarily for a group photo for the Senate website.

V. Old Business

1. Update on Faculty Handbook Appendix E change needed for the Honor Council.

It was reported that there have been some changes to the Honor Code and the Senate approved that the changes be made to the Faculty Handbook in order to update Appendix E.

VI. New Business

1. Dr. Tobin presented some possible new language to be added to the handbook regarding promotion and tenure (see below):

Adding Language in the Handbook Regarding Promotion and Tenure (pg. 47; Second Paragraph under Promotion of Faculty)

As they progress in rank, faculty members are expected to achieve increasing success both by progressively mastering all five areas and by improving in individual areas. The consistently sustained performance of faculty responsibilities is a requisite for all faculty promotions (see Major Faculty Responsibilities). **In addition, there is an expectation that faculty seeking promotion generally impact their department and college in a positive, constructive fashion.**

The addition was approved in general and it was suggested that the Handbook Committee look at the wording and see where it could be fitted into both the promotion and tenure portions of the handbook and report back their findings at the next Senate meeting. So this item was tabled until the next Senate meeting. It was also suggested that the wording be ran by System Legal to make sure the wording was appropriate for the handbook.

2. Removal of the description of the 'Council of Chairs' from the Faculty Handbook.

The 'Council of Chairs' is a legacy that has never met or, in fact, never really existed. It was unanimously approved to remove this description from the Handbook. This change should now go out to the faculty for a vote.

3. Update on summer activities and the Senate's new role related to curriculum.

Dr. Tobin began this discussion by stating that the President and the Provost have said, very strongly and repeatedly, that curriculum should be run by faculty. Dr. Tobin reported that he had several meetings with the President, Provost and the Registrar over the summer to see what possible role the Senate could take in this process. It was proposed that the Senate maintain logs of the curriculum process at 3 levels, to be posted on the Senate website: after approval by the College, by the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost. It was also proposed that we keep a yearly archive of all proposals on our website.

Dr. Tobin requested that every Senator take a look at the catalog, once it becomes available to us, to make sure that the curriculum in the catalog is correct and, if not, document any issues they see. Then send any issues they see to the *ad hoc* Senate Committee on Curriculum.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the general consensus of the Senate that we should take on the role of archivists to provide more transparency to the curriculum process.

4. Populating the Faculty Senate Committees.

Dr. Tobin passed around a list of Senate Committees and asked the Senators to choose the committee that they would like to serve on. He also informed the Senate that once they chose a committee to serve on, all committees should meet soon to decide on their respective Committee Chairs and report that at the October Senate meeting.

5. Ongoing Technology and Distance Education issues.

There were several problems mentioned that after returning from the summer the school computer would not allow the individual to log back into it, as though the person's password was forgotten. It seems that, in some cases, a personal cell phone was interfering with the computer's Wi-Fi making a log-in impossible.

Also, after some computer updates, files appear to be missing from some people's computers.

6. Dr. Rhodes reported that she is currently preparing the list for the election of the Fixed-Term Faculty Senate position and is awaiting the Focus Report of faculty positions before proceeding. We should have a Fixed-Term Faculty representative in place by the October Senate meeting.

Also, even though there has been a change in the College of Education so that now they two representatives in the Senate, both will be retained on the Senate until the May 2019 elections.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Faculty Handbook Committee

Malynda announced that she has just given printed copies of the official June 2018 Faculty Handbook to the Senate Executives and that official copies are available for viewing at the Killam Library.

It was also announced that the Web Handbook had been updated to match the official June 2018 release and that electronic versions of the Handbook are available for downloading in multiple formats on the Senate website.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.