

TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

April 3, 2020; WebEx

- I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Lola Norris, at 12:05 p.m.
- II. *Roll Call:* Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Mr. Jose Gutierrez, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Dianna Linn, Dr. Abby Lloyd, Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Kenneth Tobin
- III. *Our Guests* were given the floor.

Dr. Pablo Arenaz

Made several announcements of items that TAMIU are going to implement institutionally:

- If students drop one or more courses they will not count toward the 6 total carrier drops currently allowed.
- Going to wave the 3 repeat rule. Since TAMIU does not receive formula funding if a student repeats a course for the third time a \$100 fee is charged to the student. This fee will now be waved.
- We are going to implement a multiple grading system. We are going to give the students the option of taking a course for a letter grade or for taking it for credit-no credit (Cr/NCr).

Dr. Arenaz also reported that we (TAMIU) had their first report of a covid-positive case among a member of TAMIU. Due to the pandemic, Summer courses will be taught in a virtual environment and we are not sure yet about what will take place in the Fall semester.

Dr. Tom Mitchell

Dr. Mitchell announced that student evaluations will be cancelled for this Spring semester. Also that students will have until April 23rd to declare a given course as a normal letter grade or Cr/NCr and that neither credit nor no-credit will affect their GPA. This is in effect a 'fix' for the Spring courses, but neither Maymester or Summer courses will have the Cr/NCr option. Finally, for a Win course to receive Win credit students are still required to have a grade of C or above in the course.

IV. Old Business

1. Elections and University Committees Update. Senator Dalton proposed that we delay the filling of positions for some committees until we return in August or September. Those committees whose positions should not be delayed include:

- Honors Council
- University P&T
- Ombud's position
- University Curriculum Committee
- Faculty Senate

This proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.

A call will be made for nominations for the Ombud's position by the following week and voting will take place between April 16th to 24th.

2. Faculty Survey for Spring 2020. Senator Gill reported that she will be sending out an email to the Senate for feedback for questions to be used in the survey. It was also proposed that the survey be tabled until the Fall semester. This was voted on and approved unanimously.
3. Course Evaluations and PPE. Senator Lola Norris confirmed that there will be no course evaluations for the Spring semester, but we (the Senate) should still continue seeking information for what should go into the teaching portfolio and teaching rubrics. It was suggested that the Academic Oversight Committee could get together and see what information is already available and then we could precede in filling in any gaps.

V. New Business

1. University Awards (Senators Gill and Gonzalez). It was proposed that voting on the University Awards be postponed until August or September. This would give the Senators time to look over the portfolios this summer. This proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.
2. Senator Vilorio expressed some concern about the lack of availability of the Testing Center during this pandemic. Also, that students will be required to pay additional monies for having their testing monitored when using programs like Examity.
3. Ongoing Technology Issues. Several issues were brought up:
 - OIT's auto-updating of computers during working hours is disruptive to teaching;
 - WebEx does not seem to work well on Mac Computers;
 - A suggestion to extend Duo authentication for 1 day to, at least, 30 days.

VI. Committee Reports

1. Academic Oversight Committee: did not meet.
2. Budget and Finance Committee: Senator Linn reported that they did meet in March to provide an introduction for new members.
3. University Ethics Committee: did not meet.
4. Committee on Committees: see previous report.
5. Awards Committee: see previous report.
6. Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: reported that the Senate website Handbook is currently being updated.
7. Assessment Committee: did not meet.
8. Distance Education Committee: did not meet.
9. Technology Advisory Committee: did not meet.
10. Ad Hoc Fixed-Term Promotion Committee: did not meet.

VII. Other Business

It was announced that Coffee with the President will be on April 15th at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx

VIII. Adjournment at 1:06 p.m.