

TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

May 1, 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. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Dianna Linn, Dr. Abby Lloyd, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Mr. Keaton Powers, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

III. *Our Guests* were given the floor.

Dr. Pablo Arenaz and Dr. Tom Mitchell:

Several important announcements were made on the possible reopening of the campus:

- They are going to try to bring back Central Operations people by May 18th.
- Face coverings will now be required on campus and this may continue into the Fall.
- It is hoped that classes will be face-to-face in the Fall, but if it requires covid testing to do so it will be extremely expensive (100 to 200 dollars per person).
- Our Cleaning Service will now be disinfecting all shared surfaces from now on.
- We may be faced with having to do some form of hybrid teaching for large classes in the Fall and have to move to virtual testing as well.

The Senate was also informed of several budgetary items and concerns:

- There is currently a hiring freeze imposed by the System.
- We may have to return as much as 7.5% of our budget back to the State (but no one knows for sure at this point).
- Summer is currently up by 4% in enrollment and 8% up in credit hour production, but Fall is currently down by 6% in enrollment.

The TAMIU CARES Website (<https://www.tamiau.edu/cares/>) is up as of yesterday. TAMIU will award \$5.1 million in emergency grants to assist students as part of its TAMIU CARES Program. Of this, 92%, or \$4,750,878, are federal funds while the remaining 8%, or \$394,000, is from non-governmental sources. These allocations are designed to provide grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The CARES funds will be used to address

financial hardship, including housing and food insecurity, medical expenses, and lack of educational support and supplies (including technology).

Dr. Arenaz also announced that he will be talking with Dr. Mitchell and others about the possibility of adding a year to the tenure clock for Faculty currently going up for tenure.

IV. The minutes of the March 6th Faculty Senate meeting were approved with no corrections.

V. New Business

Senator Lola Norris thanked everyone for their service to the University and announced that their Certificates of Service will be presented in the Fall.

VI. Old Business

1. Senator Dalton reported that a large number of individuals volunteered to help fill vacant positions on the University committees that needed to be filled immediately and that she will be sending the Senate an updated committee roster soon. Also that 8 other committees still have vacancies that need to be filled, but nominations and elections for those committees will take place in the early part of the Fall semester.
2. Faculty Handbook Changes: it was announced that some topics such as changes to the Appeals Committee and discrepancies in the replacement of a new Ombud's person will be tabled until the Fall. Also that a temporary Ombud's will be appointed for one year by the Provost.
3. Report on Teaching Portfolios: Senator Tobin announced that the Academic Oversight Committee have collected rubric information from the College of Arts and Sciences and the University College, but need further input from the other Colleges.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Academic Oversight Committee: see previous report.
2. Budget and Finance Committee: Senator Linn reported that they did meet but have no new information to report.
3. University Ethics Committee: did not meet.
4. Committee on Committees: see previous report.
5. Awards Committee: Senator Gill reported that all work is complete on the University Awards except the Senate's roll in looking through the binders and doing a final vote.

6. Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: see previous report.
7. Assessment Committee: Senator Gill will send out an email asking for any additional questions for the Fall's Faculty Survey.
8. Distance Education Committee: did not meet.
9. Technology Advisory Committee: did not meet.
10. Ad Hoc Fixed-Term Promotion Committee: did not meet.

VIII. Adjournment of the 2019 - 2020 Faculty Senate

IX. Call to Order: 2020 - 2021 Faculty Senate

Welcome to our two new Senators, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen and Dr. Ruby Ynalvez, and our 2 reelected Senators, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez and Ms. Angela Moran.

X. Officer Elections

Senator James Norris moved and Senator Palmer seconded that our current Senate officers be nominated to retain their current status in the 2020 - 2021 Senate. The voting was a unanimous approval.

XI. Announcements

Senator Lola Norris announced that they were trying to set up virtual meetings for Coffee with the President for sometime near the end of May and the end of June.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.