

TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

April 1, 2022; WebEx

I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Lourdes Viloría, at 12:06 p.m.

II. *Roll Call*: Dr. Lourdes Viloría, Dr. James Norris, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Dr. Li-Zheng Brooks, Dr. Deepak Ganta, Dr. Melissa Garcia, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova, Dr. Kameron Jorgensen, Dr. Hayley Kazen, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

III. *Our Guests* were given the floor:

Dr. Pablo Arenaz

Dr. Arenaz announced that we are in the middle of our budget process, which will be presented to the Finance Committee of the Board at the end of April so that they can vote on our budget at their May meeting. We are budgeting conservatively now because of the 1% decrease in student head count and the 3% decrease in credit hour production we have seen in the last 2 years.

Things seem to have quieted down in the number of Covid cases recently and if it remains that way we are planning to go back to normal class capacities beginning in the summer. We will, however, continue with the masking recommendations.

Dr. Thomas Mitchell

Dr. Mitchell made several general announcements:

- He has just now received all of the faculty evaluations from the Colleges and he will be looking them over, signing them and returning them to the deans soon.

- Faculty searches are going well. We are bringing in most of the 'in-state' candidates for face-to-face interviews and are now in the process of making offers to them.

- We are losing Ben Rawlins, our Director of the Library. He has accepted a position at the University of Kentucky as an Associate Dean of their library.

- On April 4th registration opens up for Maymeister, Summer and Fall classes. We should be encouraging students to take at least 15 hours a semester if they want to graduate in 4 years.

- He should get the faculty folders sometime next week for those fixed-term faculty who are applying for promotion.

- Only 1 faculty member and no staff have applied for the doctoral program that will be paid for by the System.

- Any fixed-term faculty who wishes to make a lateral move from fixed-term to tenure track must submit their documents to the appropriate departmental P&T committee who can then make a recommendation to the chair. The chair then needs to make a recommendation to the dean, who in turn makes a recommendation to the provost. It is possible for an individual to make the move, but they need to show a record of scholarship and research. Also, this is not like creating a new tenure track position, it is a reclassification of a current faculty member. Anyone making this lateral move will not get the teaching load reduction that a new incoming tenure track faculty member would get.

- The Provost reported that when he looks at faculty evaluations he is looking at the mean of the median of the first 4 questions on the evaluation. Also he looks at the percentage of students who submit evaluations and at the student's comments regarding the faculty member.

- The Provost shared with the Senate the system he is currently using for pay raises for faculty advancing from Associate to Assistant to Full Professor. This year rather than looking at the median salary for the College to make the pay adjustment he looked at the median for the Nation for that particular field of study.

IV. The minutes for the March 4th Faculty Senate meeting were approved without further corrections.

V. New Business

A. The provision for lateral movement from fixed-term to tenure-track faculty positions. It was suggested that the Handbook Committee met soon with Senator Momen and with the Provost to begin working on language for the Handbook regarding this reclassification of a faculty member's position.

B. Possibility of revising the withdraw date and teaching evaluation dates for 7-week AP on-line classes & On-line Proctoring Tools. Senator Brooks presented the problem that teaching evaluations in these courses are being given before the drop date, which means faculty are being evaluated by students who will probably drop the course. It was mentioned that Dr. Wilkinson had agreed to look into the timing of evaluations for these courses to see how the dates could be modified. Also, a question was brought up about monitoring online exams for students and it was mentioned that the Provost was very firm that all online courses should use some form of test monitoring.

C. Technology issues. Senator Kazen reported that if you have software that you need that was bought out by a different company then you need to contact OIT so they can check both the compliance and security. There was also a concern about the possibility of doing computer refreshes during the break time. Mr. Munoa has agreed to work with the faculty, but was

concerned about faculty availability during school breaks. Also, the question of whether or not faculty will be using AEFIS in the future for their Faculty Electronic Portfolios has been sent to Karol Batey's office for a response.

D. Regents Professor Nomination Process. Senator Lola Norris reported that according to the System guidelines a local review committee of the faculty governance is suppose to be set up to look at candidates for Regents Professor and we have never followed that procedure. Senator Viloría agreed to ask the Provost as to what procedures are we currently following for nomination and selection of a Regents Professor.

E. It was announced that the Faculty Senate Meeting for May 6th 2022 will take place face-to-face, tentatively in ZSC 101.

VI. Old Business:

A. Statement by the Texas Council of Faculty Senates in response to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's comments- Senator Viloría emailed Cynthia M. Paccacerqua, VP South-Central Region, Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

A **statement** is an affirmation that stays within the university – so the voice of the Faculty Senate or Council is heard by the university administration all the way up to the President.

A **resolution** is sent all the way up to the Chancellor – so the voice of the Faculty Senate or Council is heard by every official university level because we are in a state system, it is reasonable to expect that the Chancellor may inform the Governor if the issue is significant enough.

A motion was made and seconded that TAMIU issue a statement agreeing with the Texas Council of Senates. This was approved unanimously.

A motion was also made and seconded that we also issue a resolution as well. The vote was 9 in favor, 4 opposed, so it passed.

B. The Awards Committee asked Senators to discuss with their represented faculty the recommendation made by president Arenaz at the last faculty senate meeting to extend the number of years requirement for Distinguished Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Scholar of the Year to five years and change the name of the awards. Individual senators reported that their junior and untenured faculty and in some cases even the older tenured faculty were against these changes. A motion was made and seconded to change the awards so that the Distinguished Awards would only be made available to tenured faculty. The vote was 12 for no change and 1 abstain, so the motion failed.

C. Fixed -Term Faculty Titles: Senator Vilorio reported that the Provost has corrected the Fixed-Term Faculty titles to what was originally voted on and approved both by the Senate and the Faculty.

D. Course Evaluations: The Academic Oversight Committee met with Dr. Wilkinson on March 29, 2022, to discuss the current process for calculating student evaluations using the mean of the median scores since Dr. Wilkinson stated in our last meeting on March 4, 2022 that this metric has to be calculated manually for each individual faculty member because the AEFIS system is not doing the calculations as they are currently reported to faculty in laserfische, the provost and the president. Senator Vilorio reported that The Academic Oversight Committee will have an additional meeting(s) with Dr. Wilkinson and with Dr. Mitchell to try to settle this issue of how to make evaluation metrics more uniform for all of the faculty.

VII. Committee Reports:

A. The Academic Oversight Committee: see previous report.

B. The Budget and Finance Committee: no report.

C. The University Ethics Committee: no report.

D. The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees:

Senator Dalton reported that she will begin asking for nominees for University Committees next week and will get a vote out for them by the week of April 18th.

E. The Awards Committee:

Senator Gonzalez reported that about half of the teaching award observations have been submitted and when they are all completed they will go into the respective binders. Then the Awards Committee will inform the Senate when they can begin reviewing the binders.

F. The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: no report.

G. The Assessment Committee: no report.

H. The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee:

Senator James Norris reported that they met and are now providing the faculty with the meeting results through the DEITC Newsletter:

(<https://express.adobe.com/page/YnlDu4ldBUfrH/>).

Senator Norris reported that Blackboard is being updated to a new look starting May 14th. The Instructional Technology Excellence Award is soliciting nominations, which will be

open until May 31st, and you can self-nominate. Faculty training is still available for the new updates to TurnItIn. There are grants available at the library for faculty who plan on writing or even using free-online textbooks in their class(es).

I. The Technology Advisory Committee: see previous report and attached minutes.

J. Fixed-Term Promotion Ad Hoc Committee: no report.

VIII. Announcements

Senator Lola Norris shared with the Senate a picture of the Faculty Senate from 1997. Also, it was announced that the plaques for the past Faculty Senate Presidents will now have a place in the Library's Great Room.

Senator Viloría announced that we will take a senate group picture by the plaques at the May meeting.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Texas A&M International University/ Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2022

2:30 p.m. Virtual

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Hayley Kazen-in attendance

Invitees:

San Juanita Hernandez– Faculty Senate Appointee,

Frances Bernat- COAS

Cynthia L. Piña, COED-in attendance

Hugo Garcia –ARSSBA,

Seong Kwan Cho – CNHS,

Eva Hernandez – KL-in attendance

Alma Jasso Chavez, UC

President's Appointee, Marvin E. Bennett, III-in attendance

Fred Juarez III, VP for Finance & Admissions Appointee,

Ana Gonzalez, VP for IT Appointee-in attendance

Cathy Colunga, VP for Institutional Advancement Appointee-in attendance

Juan Garcia, VP for Student Success Appointee-in attendance

Miguel Munoa, VP for Informational Technology/CIO, ex-officio-in attendance

Welcome/ Roll call-

I. Review/Approve February 10, 2022 minutes

- i. M. Bennett moved to approve minutes; J. Garcia seconded.

II. New Business

1. New software compliance (C. Colunga)

- i. C. Colunga stated that in her department, software had been bought out by another company, and in another case, the data was migrated to another site. A. Gonzalez confirmed that when this happens, you must complete compliance and security documents. This is required of any new vendor.

2. Refresh issues

- i. Any issues with refresh need to go through OIT (either direct call or email). M. Bennett brought up request by some faculty to do refreshes during breaks. M. Munoa is willing to consider but concerned about faculty availability. He stated that they will try to streamline refresh process by having data stored on OneDrive. He also mentioned putting a mechanism in place to transfer only

necessary software rather than all software as some might be obsolete. This will likely solve the issues with time taken to migrate data.

3. AEFIS for FEP

- i. Not a TAC issue, but H. Kazen will send on to Karol Batey.

III. Open Agenda-

- i.* C. Pina stated she is having issues linking 3rd party apps to SSO. M. Munoa will look into it as it depends on existing 3rd party contracts. M. Munoa also stated that there are potential security issues with companies that have Office 365 tie-in abilities.
- ii.* C. Pina also asked about outdated distribution lists on outlook. A. Gonzalez stated that only faculty distribution lists were updated. For any other list to be updated, faculty can ask OIT to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm