

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 23, 2012

Attendance: J. Anderson, S. Anderson, Beltz, Benibo, Bowden, Chambers, Garcia, Garrett, Katz, Larkin, Loveland, Lyle, Miller, Ridley, Sefcik, Tejada-Delgado.

Guests: Berkich, Billeaux, Bonds, Graham, Markwood, Meyer, Smart

1. Approval of minutes - February 2012 – postponed until April meeting
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Speaker's Report.
 - 3.1. Katz noted several changes to agenda (see below)
4. Modification to the University draft procedure on Civil Rights complaints (Sam Ramirez) – removed from agenda. Board is working on system policy.
5. Development Leave (Handout)
 - 5.1. Sefcik moved to accept policy, Garcia seconded.
 - 5.2. Katz noted that the primary change was to require faculty to write an executive summary to be given to the coordinating board.
 - 5.3. Markwood noted that the other change was to limit leave to tenured faculty with at least two years of service at TAMUCC.
 - 5.4. Markwood also noted that the policy allows the CFE committee to review the leave reports and eliminates the leave review committee. A senator noted that the CFE does represent each college.
 - 5.5. Motion passed (17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions)
6. Promotion
 - 6.1. Faculty Affairs and Katz met with the deans after the last senate meeting.
 - 6.1.1. Sefcik reviewed the most recent revisions to the original draft policy discussed at the January meeting. The revisions recommended by faculty senate included grammar and minor language revision, addition of a statement to eliminate the “dead year”, and a requirement to address the impact on current faculty of any changes to departmental criteria.
 - 6.1.2. Sefcik moved to approve the promotion policy, Larkin seconded.
 - 6.1.3. A senator asked about the elimination of references to the confidentiality clause. Markwood noted that system legal determined that all promotion records are subject to open records laws.
 - 6.1.4. A senator asked about staggering the elections with the appointments. The provost agreed to recommend first appointments be for one year to alternate elections with appointments to ensure some level of continuity on committee.
 - 6.1.5. A senator noted that the policy requires excellence in all three areas of performance which would tend to eliminate faculty who are exceptional in two areas and “good enough” in a third area. Extended discussion followed.
 - 6.1.6. Katz noted that the deans tacitly approved the process.
 - 6.1.7. Lyle called the question.
 - 6.1.8. The motion passed (15 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).
7. University Studies Degree – remove from agenda – approved at last meeting.
8. Fulltime, Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Positions Procedure Document

- 8.1. The latest revision modified the statement related to teaching load to address concerns raised at the last meeting.
- 8.2. A senator from nursing expressed concerns that the statement about a 15-hour teaching load would make it difficult to recruit and retain clinical nursing faculty who are required to carry a heavy clinical load on top of classroom teaching (currently teaching 12 hours).
- 8.3. The provost acknowledged that “there is no one size fits all for how to define workload”. He clearly stated that we don’t intend to “throw nursing faculty under the bus” and that clinical load would be considered when determining the teaching load for clinical faculty.
- 8.4. The motion passed (16 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).
9. Shortened Course Approval Process
 - 9.1. Chambers moved to approve, Miller seconded.
 - 9.2. Meyer noted that DOE law has a narrow definition of contact hours required for one credit hour. New course formats (e.g., making a course hybrid by cutting contact hours in half and adding online components) may cause problems. This policy protects us from future questions about validity.
 - 9.3. A senator recommended striking graduate council and undergraduate council review of existing courses. Review of existing courses will be limited to college-level committees.
 - 9.4. Vote at next meeting.
10. Spring Online Course Evaluation discussion (Markwood)
 - 10.1. Markwood expressed concerns that all the technical problems with the new Blackboard 9 system this year could put faculty teaching online courses (or courses with a heavy online component) at a disadvantage if students expressed their frustrations on the student evaluation form.
 - 10.2. Markwood proposed creating a new survey for this term, to be administered through Blackboard instead of Digital Measures, that allows students to evaluate Blackboard instead of the faculty.
 - 10.3. Loveland moved that all courses with a “W” section number be excluded from the regular evaluations this semester and for the provost to put out a call to faculty teaching courses with a heavy Blackboard component giving them the option of opting into the Blackboard survey. Lyle seconded.
 - 10.4. Motion approved unanimously.
11. Firewall Rule – FYI (see handout), input requested.
12. Senate Committee Reports
 - 12.1. Academic Affairs Committee
 - 12.1.1. New Honors Program (Don Berkich)—revision to honors program. With student input, substantive revisions were developed.
 - 12.1.1.1. A senator expressed concerns about the lack of fine arts requirements in the program. Don explained that the goal was to refocus the program to reduce size and focus on historical trivium learning goals.
 - 12.1.1.2. Please provide suggestions to Berkich via email.
 - 12.1.1.3. Vote at next meeting.
 - 12.1.2. Anderson (motion to extend 30 minutes), Lyle seconded.
 - 12.1.3. Student Evaluations (see handouts) – comments to Shane Anderson
 - 12.1.4. Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements Revision -- discussion
 - 12.1.5. Religious Studies Minor – FYI
 - 12.1.6. Kinesiology Minors -- FYI
 - 12.2. ABE Committee
 - 12.2.1. Elections – nominations from COE (4 nominations), problems with COB,

- 12.2.2. Katz noted that the faculty must be informed when and where ballots are counted.
- 12.2.3. Case and Regents award deadline rapidly approaching...please encourage applications.
- 12.3. Budget Committee – no report
- 12.4. Committee on Committees—currently working on interest survey
- 12.5. Faculty Affairs – alre
- 13. Next meeting – regular meeting then adjourn, seat new senators, ABE chair runs elections, select committees and elect committee chairs,
- 14. Katz adjourned the meeting at 4:25

Respectfully Submitted

Karen A. Loveland, Faculty Senate Secretary