

Faculty Senate Retreat  
August 29, 2013  
OCNR 135  
By Carmen Tejeda-Delgado

**Present:** Senators Anderson, Araiza, Baldwin, Bowden, Brown, Chambers, Concannon, Crane, Engelhardt, Friday, Giraldo, Griffith, Kar, Keys, Klaus, Larkin, Miller, Moreno, Spencer, Tejeda-Delgado, Wines, and Zimmer

**Absent:** none

- I. Call to order: 9:01 a.m./ welcome and Introductions activity
- II. Parliamentary FS Guidelines, using Robert's Rules (see attached guidelines) – Patrick Larkin
- III. Motion to Accept Agenda: Miller; Second: Kathi Crane; Discussion: None; Speaker called for vote: All in favor: unanimous
- IV. Shared Governance Document from TAMU: Discussion ensued concerning an interest in creating a similar document for our university. It was decided that the Faculty Affairs Committee would work on a draft.
- V. Speaker's Report
  1. System Faculty Senates Leaders' Meeting with Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. James Hallmark
    - The FS leaders decided to become an official organization that will meet regularly at Board of Regents (BOR) meetings, holding 2-hour meetings to gather information from Dr. Hallmark and other TAMUS staff members, before the BOR Committee on Academic and Student Affairs meeting, which is held the day before the BOR meeting. After the breakfast meeting, these FS leaders will hold another meeting, for up to four hours, to discuss issues on their campuses.
  2. Meeting of the Board of Regents Committee on Academic and Student Affairs (CASA), Aug. 7:
    - Some of the newer Regents appeared to not understand how very different the separate university campuses are. Some appeared to not understand major issues in higher education for more typical undergraduates.

### 3. New Faculty Orientation, Aug. 23

Revamped by Speaker Spencer and leaders of many offices in Finance and Administration, spearheaded by Debra Cortinas: It included a get acquainted activity and talks by Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Dr. Albright, and Bradley Shope. The afternoon session consisted of visiting up to 11 tables to speak with representatives of student-service and faculty-service offices, and options to attend up to four 20-minute talks: library services, IT security, distance education, and hurricane preparedness. FS will try to avoid conducting New Faculty Orientation on the same day as New Student Orientation Larkin asked for congratulatory recognition for Spencer on spearheading this year's changes.

### 4. Issues on the horizon

- i. Dependent tuition study: Over 300 respondents...will send a reminder to employees to fill out survey, after classes start
- ii. Equity/merit pay – study of last year's faculty raises: will send a questionnaire reminder to faculty soon
- iii. Revision of post-tenure review rule
- iv. Every 5<sup>th</sup> year review/revisions to various System policies and University rules and procedures
- v. College tenure & Promotion criteria -Provost has not yet approved any. Larkin thinks his College has been approved
- vi. Review of Summer School:

Discussion ensued concerning summer budgeting, student disincentive from no PELL in summers, Hazelwood issues, compensation model, mini-mesters, Academic Partnerships, academic integrity, development of new courses, the value of summer school. It was decided that As a Faculty Senate, we should be taking a “framing” lead on the summer school issue , with that framing to include the financial/economics aspect to include in our strategy.

- vii. Textbook adoption (as part of the Federal Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which requires that the ISBN be available by the time of registration):

Senators have to impress upon our colleagues the need to provide this information when requested.

- viii. Funding formula maximization (maximizing funding by understanding and strategically utilizing the state's funding formula model)

Discussion: Faculty need to become educated on how to code the courses correctly (upper division/lower division/science). It is important to educate our students, advisors and faculty about when to take courses.

- ix. Graduate enrollment (declining)

Discussion: Graduate course enrollments are critical for the university to bring in revenue. One issue is that we have no funds to offer assistantships. Administration should heed program review recommendations in order to grow perspective graduate programs

- x. Proposed changes in the core curriculum – removing ECON courses from their position and putting them in with social sciences, and making that 3-hour block available for an array of other courses. Any proposed changes will eventually come to FS.

Discussion: Concerns were expressed that: each university graduate should have a reasonable degree of understanding of the key components of what it takes to operate in a capitalistic society; the array of courses in the CORE, needing to avoid too much ambiguity and subjective decisions; we need to consider the “foundations” of what a student needs to glean from a university education; we must guard against creating consumers and not “citizens;” and one gains those attributes from the CORE.

## VI. University Committees and Councils

1. Kathi Crane, Chair of the COC in FS, stated that Cely Smart has resigned from the university, and we do not yet have a replacement for the University COC.
2. We may consider increasing the number of Senators from each college to alleviate multiple committee memberships by senators
3. “Citizenship” model proposal (see attached):
  - a. Four Committees
    - i. Faculty Grievance Committee
    - ii. Students Misconduct Committee
    - iii. Grade Appeals (have now been sent back to the colleges)
    - iv. Promotion/tenure appeals

Discussion: Colleges still have to abide by university and system policies with regards to committee protocols. It was recommended that Faculty Affairs or Academic Affairs Committee consider a draft proposal. Concerning who should serve, one member advised that non-tenured faculty should not be left out of the grade appeals process regardless of the political “hot point” that it can be. Another stated that the Chair should be tenured and this Chair should be able to ethically facilitate the process in minimizing any negative repercussions a non-tenured faculty may incur. And a vote by secret ballot could protect a non-tenured faculty on grade appeals committees. Another cautioned that a Junior Faculty opinion may be opposing a “tenured” faculty member.

## VI. Senate Meeting schedule

1. Dates: **Fall** – Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> & emergency meeting \*Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> (if necessary); **Spring** – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, April 18 & emergency meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup> (if necessary)
2. Larkin moved to accept; Friday seconded; Miller called the question.
3. Unanimous “yea”
4. \*Emergency meeting would be December 6<sup>th</sup> (not November 29<sup>th</sup>)

## VII. First Executive Committee meeting: September 10, 9:30 a.m., LIB 218

VIII. Committee Issues: Senate committees met to select their highest priorities for this academic year and then shared them:

**Committee on Committees:**

- Identify committees for which we are responsible for finding faculty to serve, to fill all committee openings
- To monitor committee membership & verify nominations
- Create webpage that includes
  - Expiration dates for terms of each faculty member serving on a committee
  - Interactive section for taking requests & monitoring
- Working with “New Cely Smart”
- Priorities identified for FS, but not for COC
  - Annual Development Evaluation Plan
  - Should there be a different role for non-tenure track senators?
  - ABE (verify nominations)

**Awards, Bylaws and Elections:**

- Awards:
  - Increase number of submissions
    - Honorarium increases (\$\$)
    - Share ranking criteria
  - Encourage each college to submit nominations (at least one per award)
    - College meetings, via Deans
  - Provide portfolio assistance
  - Promote benefits (attachment, former recipient testimonials, Islander Forum, College Reception)
  - Streamline the submission process
    - Standardized guidelines and formatting
    - Post online (electronic submission–like DM or ePortfolio)
    - Make congruent to President’s standards and expectations
    - Improve notification of awards deadlines
- Bylaws: Review of process for removal of Senators
- Elections: Administer the nomination and election processes for next year’s Senate

**Faculty Affairs:**

- Academic Freedom
- Librarian Status
- Post Tenure Review
- Proposed changes to professional development leave
- Faculty Workload, in conjunction with:
  - Budget: Pay Equity; Summer Pay; Dependent Tuition
  - ABE: Shared Governance

**Academic Affairs (AA):**

- Academic Integrity (with Faculty Affairs Committee)
- Funding for development of courses
- Standardization of Course Evaluations
- Academic Freedom (with Faculty Affairs Committee): Faculty in one college are being **told** that their lectures will be recorded.
- Program Review
- Core changes

**Budget Committee:**

- Annual Budget Variance Analysis: Will focus on consultants - technology
- Year Round budgeting
  - Summer School
  - Mini-mesters
- Track and recommend where the additional Funding Formula funds – release – will go
- Merit/Equity – Standing by to assist
- Dependent Tuition – on Standby
- Will assist other FS Committees, if assistance is requested

IX. Other issues

Might we consider inviting an AAUP Representative to speak to the Faculty Senate?

X. Adjourn