

***Emergency Faculty Senate Meeting***  
**December 6, 2013**

Senators present: Anderson, Araiza, Baldwin, Brown, Concannon, Crane, Engelhardt, Friday, Giraldo, Griffith, Kar, Klaus, Larkin, Miller, Moreno, Spencer, Wines, Zimmer

Absent: Bowden, Chambers, Keys, Tejeda-Delgado

Ex officio members: Provost Markwood

Guests: Dave Billeaux, Lionel Cassin, Tiffany Hearne, Thomas Naehr

1. Meeting called to order by Dr. Spencer at 2 p.m.
2. Approval of agenda: Griffith asked to add announcement from the Academic Affairs Committee. Motion to approve the agenda, with that change was made, by Griffith, and seconded by Moreno; motion passed.
3. Approval of FS minutes from Nov. 15 meeting
  - a. Provost Markwood requested that the word “president” be stricken from the last line on p. 1. Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Miller and seconded by Griffith. Motion passed.
4. New business: Consideration of proposal for MS option in *Coastal and Marine Science Systems* (CMSS) graduate program
  - a. Dr. Thomas Naehr, CMSS faculty member and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, requested approval of a proposal for a MS degree option in the CMSS graduate program (COSE). TAMUCC currently offers a Ph.D. in CMSS, but wishes to add a MS for two reasons: (1) as an option for CMSS doctoral students who decide not to pursue a Ph.D., and (2) as an alternative entry point to the doctoral degree for graduate students initially pursuing a master’s.
  - b. Question: What proportion of current students in program are minorities, and what specific plans does the program have for the recruitment of minority students from South Texas?
    - i. Reply: There is currently not a large representation of minority students in the program. The graduate college is currently working on a comprehensive recruitment plan targeted to minorities. Some aspects, such as enhanced recruitment at national SACNAS convention and Texas graduate recruitment fairs have already occurred.
  - c. Question: How does CMSS program currently recruit doctoral students?
    - i. Reply: No formal process; word of mouth (colleague network). Hoping to change with new efforts, making it a priority.
  - d. Question: Non-thesis option for CMSS MS proposal?
    - i. Reply: No. CMSS faculty did not desire this option, as it was designed to be a research-based degree.
  - e. Question: Could ESCI non-thesis MS serve as an option in some circumstances?

- i. Reply: probably
  - f. Comment: Concern regarding quantitative training; emphasis seems to be on training with software programs vs. basic training in mathematics
    - i. Reply: Agree to some extent, but MS proposal is designed to align with requirements of PhD already in place. Changing requirements would essentially be designing a different program.
  - g. Question: 9 extra hours for MS thesis. Foresee need for additional faculty?
    - i. Reply: No. Faculty already obligated in case of PhD to MS option. Current faculty already in CMSS program capable of handling new MS admissions.
  - h. Question: How closely aligned is CMSS with McNair Scholars program?
    - i. Reply: Not aware.
  - i. Comment: Could be a good vehicle for local students. Could supplement application process. If an institute has a McNair program, application fees should be waived. Can serve as a nice feeder system.
  - j. Motion to approve made by Miller, seconded by Klaus. Approval unanimous.
5. Griffith: The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) received numerous proposals just before the November 15 meeting, without enough time for thorough review:
- a. Catalog changes
  - b. Proposal for BS in electrical engineering, with associated catalog changes  
AAC will disseminate. Please review prior to January Faculty Senate (FS) meeting, where motion will be made to approve. Material needs to go before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in January.
  - c. Reminder to FS representatives on university-wide academic committees - Honors Council, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, Core Curriculum Committee: Please remind chairs of those committees to send such documents that will require FS approval to the FS administrative assistant, Cathy Bridges, for distribution. This is not currently being done in many cases, causing unnecessary delays.
6. Motion to adjourn was made by Moreno. Meeting adjourned 2:23 pm

Respectively submitted,

Patrick Larkin (Deputy Speaker)  
Secretary Pro Tem