

Faculty Senate Minutes-Official

March 21, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

OCNR 363

Present: Senators: Anderson, Araiza, Baldwin, Bowden, Chambers, Griffith, Kar, Keys, Larkin, Miller, Spencer, Tejada-Delgado, Wines, Zimmer

Absent: Senators: Brown, Concannon, Crane, Engelhardt, Friday, Giraldo, Klaus, Moreno

Present: Ex-Officio: Beard, Markwood, Meyer

Guest: Billeaux

1. Call to order by Speaker Spencer at 2:12 p.m.
2. Approval of agenda
 - a. Griffith moved
 - b. Bowden seconded
 - c. Approved unanimously
3. Introductions of guests-no *new* guests
4. Minutes of February 21, 20 meeting
 - a. Kar moved approval, with the typing error in Item 4a needing to be corrected
 - b. Miller seconded
 - c. Minutes approved unanimously was amended
5. New business
 - a. Spencer: Request to delay start time of Apr. 25 meeting of the current Faculty Senate to 3:15 p.m. (to avoid conflict with Employee Excellence Awards, ending at 3 p.m.) It is expected to be a short meeting, followed by the seating of the new Faculty Senate, starting at roughly 4 p.m.
 - i. Miller moved
 - ii. Kar seconded
 - iii. Approved unanimously
 - b. Larkin: Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senates and Council of TAMUS Faculty Senate Leaders. Our Faculty Senate seems to be in better condition than many campuses in their relationship with administration. Dr. James Hallmark, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs spoke about various issues.
 - c. Bowden: Request for Faculty Senate endorsement of two faculty surveys
 - i. Faculty compensation changes in Feb. 2014-unanimously supported
 - ii. Institutional Review Board (if draft has been received)-draft not received
6. Old business
 - a. Bowden and Larkin: Post Tenure Review faculty forum discussions (see draft policy)
 - i. Keys suggested review verbiage from P&T policy regarding eligibility for committee membership.
 - ii. Beate was concerned about the monetary reward (merit and equity) even for marginal faculty who may still pass post tenure review. Decision was made that we should not make policy based on the "worst case scenario"
 - iii. Portfolio options available (ePortfolio, DM, binder).

- iv. Provost asked if there was a retirement section in the draft and Larkin confirmed with section 5.2.2.1. Additional sentence regarding retirement will be added.
 - v. Draft will be revised based on this meeting's feedback and will be sent to all Senators for feedback.
 - b. Jennifer Anderson: Rank & Promotion of Librarians update
 - i. Only one change for clarification in p.10, 6.5 for process of receiving recommendations
 - ii. Motion to approve: Griffith
 - iii. Seconded the motion: Baldwin
 - iv. Approved unanimously
7. New business
- a. Speaker's report: Strategic Planning & Continuous Improvement Committee update
 - i. Steering group continues to polish goals, objectives and policies
 - ii. Short semesters: Students are still not able to evaluate professors after the early term (Fall I or Spring I) course is over. Those evaluation instruments are not available to them till the long semester evaluations become available.
 - b. Committee reports
 - i. Academic Affairs
 - a) Discussion on the issue of TAs having violated Student Code of Conduct/Academic Misconduct.
 - b) Provost suggested that Angela Walker come to our next meeting to review policies and procedures of Judicial Process
 - ii. Awards, Bylaws & Elections
 - a) ABE members met to evaluate nomination and chose the semifinalists who were notified and asked to submit a portfolio
 - b) CASE and Regents Award nominations have been received and will be going forward
 - c) Speaker Spencer will be sending out emails to the associate deans with sample ballots and wording for the cover email.
 - d) CPIRA has requested an ex officio non-voting member to attend the Faculty Senate Meetings for a one year term.
 - 1) Larkin motioned
 - 2) Anderson seconded
 - 3) Discussion:
 - (a) Chambers unclear as to why this committee is "special" in the sense that it should have its own representation within the faculty senate
 - (b) Bowden suggested we table the request
 - (c) CPIRA membership discussion continued
 - (d) The vote was passed and the new sentence will be added to the bylaws: "A designated member of CPIRA shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Senate for a 1 year term.
 - iii. Budget Analysis
 - a) Concern was voiced by some faculty about fairness of annual evaluations.
 - b) Chambers recommended that a survey be administered to Department Chairs via e-mail to aggregate the data on how they rated faculty on a 3 point scale: above standard, standard, below standard.
 - c) Concern was voiced that the questionnaire would be too intrusive and inappropriate.

- d) A senator indicated that the concern was that some faculty received conflicting information on the administration of annual evaluations.
 - e) Another senator suggested to the Office of the Provost provide the data rather than to request it from the Chairs via the survey. The Provost agreed to ask the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, Kathy Funk-Baxter, to provide the data.
- iv. Committee on Committees – Bridges indicated the survey for learning faculty committee preferences will be generated and distributed soon.
- v. Faculty Affairs
- a) Post Tenure and Library issues are both being wrapped up
 - b) Academic Freedom Policy – No action taken from current senate and will be picked up by new Senate
 - c) Developmental Leave Policy – No action taken from current Senate and will be picked up by new Senate
 - d) Faculty Work Load Policy – No action taken from current Senate and will be picked up by new Senate
8. Provost's comments
- a. SACS (Please refer to SACS COC).
 - b. President signed 2 applications for Faculty Development Leave and these will be going to the board.
 - c. PC has approved proposed faculty innovation grants. Call for proposals will be sent out next week.
9. Adjourned 3:50p.m.