

Faculty Senate Meeting
March 27, 2015 2:00 PM
Islander Hall 323

Present: Anderson, Araiza, Brown, Cammarata, Changchit, Crane, Dolan, Flournoy, Griffith, Kar, Kutil, Larkin, Miller, Mollick, Moreno, Ozymy, Spaniol, Spencer, Tejada-Delgado, Zeidan

Absent: Thompson

Ex Officio Beard, Cassin, Coplan, Provost Markwood

Guests: VP Funk-Baxter, Gere, Hamilton, Quintanilla Shupala,

1. Call to Order 2:02
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Miller moved to approve the agenda, while Griffith seconded. Motion passed with 1 abstention
3. Approval of February Minutes
 - a. Spencer moved, Moreno seconded
 - c. Approved unanimously
4. New business
 - a. Membership pricing changes for Recreational Sports
 - i. Dr. Jacqueline Hamilton, Director, Recreational Sports

There has been a student fee increase, and faculty/staff prices for Recreational Sports memberships will be affected. The new fee will be implemented over a period of 3 years. Currently the Rec Sports fee is \$22.50 a month. In Fall 2015 it will be \$28.75. In Fall 2017 it will be \$35 a month, and the final price will be \$43.75 a month in Fall 2018. This is the maximum charge allowed, according to Texas legislature. It would require a legislative act to go above this amount.

b. Summer School Funding Overview

- ii. Kathy Funk Baxter, Executive VP Finance & Administration

Senator Spencer noted for the record that we are going to miss Kathy.

(Please see presentation on Faculty Senate website)

5. Old Business:

- a. Assignment of Faculty Workload Credit, University Rule 12.03.99.C1

Moreno presented this document for approval as a representative of the Faculty Affairs Committee. It was tabled at the last meeting to allow members of College of Nursing and Health Sciences to review. In Section 2.10.1, on page 3 of the document, nursing courses are addressed specifically. Other than that the document remains the same as the last meeting.

Spencer moved to approve, Crane seconded. Passed unanimously.

b. Post-Tenure Review, University Procedure 12.06.99.C1

In February Senate rejected the proposal. Larkin has been meeting with Dean Quintanilla to address issues. Of particular concern is Section 5.7 on page 3: Documentation that would accompany a review rating. Senate feels that there is no need for documentation other than the rating. Senate feels that each review should stand alone, not be dependent on past ratings. However, it seems that it may be required to keep that documentation. System records retention requires that all records be kept for 5 years after the last day of employment.

There was some question on section 5.7, so the item was tabled until the next meeting, while the policy can be confirmed.

Griffith would like to say for the record thank you to Senator Larkin and Dean Quintanilla for the work they've done on this.

- Spencer moved to suspend rules to change order of agenda. Ozymy seconded. Academic Affairs will present the section out of order in order to accomodate guests from CLA.

7. Committee reports

a. Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Committee has reviewed the revised proposal, that included a budget, for the Graphic Design undergraduate degree and has voted to recommend approval. Kutil moved to approve, Anderson seconded. Discussion occurred before the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Speakers report

- a. Welcome to April Bassett, new FS/Staff Council administrative assistant.
- b. Results of referendum on proposed changes to FS Constitution: 36 votes cast, all in favor of both amendments
- c. Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting update: Griffith and Larkin attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates during the last weekend of February. Leaders of TAMUS Senates met with TAMUS Vice Chancellor Hallmark. Some issues that were discussed were guns on campus, Hazelwood funding from the legislature, and common course numbering.
- d. CPIRA & Staff Council updates: Bowden spoke about the IRB process at the February CPIRA meeting. In March, Vice President Cifuentes spoke about invoicing issues. Another issue was the definition of primary investigator. Staff council: the faculty/staff luncheon was last week, and was a great success. Staff Council award nominations are now open. Please go to the SC website for the nomination form. The deadline was supposed to be 5:00 today, but the deadline has been extended for a few days.
- e. Spring Faculty Forums report.- About 20 people attended. Discussion centered on procedures related to faculty evaluations, merit pay, and academic freedom. Comments were collected and forwarded to Faculty Affairs Committee.

- f. Kathryn Funk-Baxter (Vice President of Finance & Administration) has accepted a similar position at UTSA, effective April 24. Larkin will serve on the search committee for her replacement.
- g. Appointment, Rank and Promotion of Professional Librarians 12.99.99.C2.03-- system legal is making revisions that essentially approve the TAMUCC version. Once they do so it becomes official. Provost Markwood and Associate Vice President Shupala will meet with President Killebrew in the near future.

Committee Reports, continued:

- a. Academic Affairs Committee continued
 - i. Procedure 13.03.01.C01 Academic Scholarships revision. Committee recommends approval of the revisions. Griffith moved to approve. Kutil seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Curriculum approval process: Spencer met with Grad Council yesterday and determined there needs to be a change in the curriculum approval process. The Academic Affairs Committee has been invited by Grad Council to work with them to try to clean up the discrepancies we've seen this semester. There were discrepancies between what had been approved and what made it into the 2015-16 *Catalog*. Associate Vice President Shupala and Dr. Beard explained the process of adding courses to the catalog, and noted there will be some technology changes made that should improve the process.

Speaker Larkin thanked everyone on the Academic Affairs Committee for their hard work this semester.

- b. Awards, Bylaws & Elections
 - i. Working on making recommendations for the finalists for the 6 different excellence awards. Hopefully by the end of next week. Also elections will occur next week, March 31-April 6.

c. Budget Analysis

Faculty Compensation study (See document on Faculty Senate website). Report showed TAMUCC at lower rates for promotion than our peers at both comparable and aspirational institutions. The data suggest that it will be necessary for the university to increase its compensation rates if it wishes to be competitive with these institutions.

Provost Markwood made a request of the Budget Analysis Committee/Faculty Senate: What are the budget priorities of Faculty Senate for the Academic Affairs division? This will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Griffith moved to extend meeting to 4:30, Spencer seconded. Passed with one abstention.

d. Committee on Committees

Nothing new to report. Will meet with Associate Vice President Shupala next week to finalize committees

Mollick requested the list of 18 members assigned by the Faculty Senate to serve on the Faculty Hearing Committee (grievances and appeals). The assignments are in process. Dr. Markwood explained that past difficulties lead to a need to expand this pool to 30 members, half assigned by the deans and half by the senate. The policy is currently being revised to reflect this change in practice..

e. Faculty Affairs

Approved assignment of faculty workload credit document earlier in the meeting.

Two procedures are being presented to the Senate for consideration:

i. Academic Freedom procedure (12.01.99.C0.02)

Moreno presented the document, and proposed some changes.

- Section 3, sentence 2: “Therefore when speaking or acting as a private person, the faculty member should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinion of others and to avoid creating the impression that he or she speaks for as for the college or university
- Section 7, sentence 4 (page 2): “Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others and should make every effort to uphold the ethical standards and professionalism of the institution.” Suggested: Suggest this sentence be removed due to redundancy.
- Section 5, sentence 2 (page 1): “Furthermore, the public statements may be without sufficient foundation, so as...” the word “so” should be added where underlined
- Section 6 (page 2): “Professors mea sure” should be replaced with “Professors measure”

Discussion:

Larkin noted that these edits reached the Senate only very recently , and the Senate may wish to have more time to review it.

A senator noted that there are several instances where the words “Faculty” “teacher” and “instructor” are used interchangeably, and suggested it might be better to be more consistent in the use of designations by using “faculty member(s).” This was considered a friendly amendment. Moreno added that the committee would have no objections to the amendment.

Section 2: “Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matters which have no relation to their subject.”

Friendly amendment to change to the following:

“Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom discussing controversial matters related to their subject.”

Spencer moved to approve with two friendly amendments and corrections stated above. Crane seconded. Motion passed with one abstention

ii. Document: Performance review of Faculty Members (33.99.03.C1.02)

Motion to approve: Griffith moved to approve, Ozymy seconded. Discussion.

Moreno presented the document with suggested changes:

- Paragraph that begins with “Reasonable procedure”, third sentence: “Faculty’s members”. Strike the possessive s on “Faculty’s” and change to “Faculty members”.
- Paragraph under general: suggests “employees” be changed to “faculty”.

[Griffith moved to extend meeting to 5:00 pm Spencer seconded. Motion passed by majority]

There was a question about performance reviews for administrators. After a substantial discussion, Spencer moved to table this matter until the next meeting. Seconded by Passed unanimously.

8. Provost’s comments

- Doctor of Nursing Practice has been approved by a subcommittee at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Still requires passage by the full board.
- Requested Budget proposals for Academic Affairs division from Senate.
- The time for PricewaterhouseCoopers responses is nearing an end. Reports are due next week. Three strategies ????
- System now considering a classification study of job titles. Likely not to include study of *faculty* titles (assistant professor, professional faculty, etc.)

9. For the good of the order

The parliamentarian suggested that the committee on bylaws look into the procedure for the amendments in the constitution. ? Don’t recall this, what did it concern?

Request was also made to provide the Senate with a copy of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report. Provost Markwood will ask VP Funk-Baxter.

10. Adjourn: Crane moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.