

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes-Official

October 17, 2014

Senators Present: Araiza, Bowden, Brown, Crane, Dolan, Flournoy, Griffith, Kar, Larkin, Miller, Mollick, Moreno, Ozymy, Spaniol, Spencer, Tejada-Delgado, Thompson

Senators Absent: Anderson, Cammarata, Changchit, Giraldo, Zeidan

Ex-Officio: Beard, Billeaux, Markwood, Meyer

Guests: Ann Degaish, Angela Walker

1. Call to Order by Speaker: 2:01 p.m.
2. Approval of agenda:
 - a. Motion to approve by Miller; Flournoy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of September 19 Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve by Spencer; seconded by Crane. Motion passed unanimously.
4. New Business
 - a. Guest Speakers: Ms. Angela Walker and Ms. Ann DeGaish
 - i. Please see Faculty Senate website for their presentation.
 - ii. Questions/discussion:
 - 1) A senator asked to clarify of the definition of behavioral misconduct. This includes: Disorderly conduct, drugs, alcohol, sexual assault, classroom and non-classroom disturbance, verbal threats
 - 2) A senator asked: For behavioral incidences, when the student is notified of a charge against him or her, are they told who made the complaint?
 - Anonymous reports are very rare. Anonymity is not promised. Noted as “A member of the campus community”.
 - Students have a right to have access to their records. Once there is a report it is under their name and they have access to it. Most don't ask to see their file. ICare: 2% ask who filed the report
 - Anonymous reports are not advised because if ICare needs to follow up, they can't contact the person who made the complaint. This limits their ability to act.
 - 3) A senator asked: Are we allowed to check a student's record before we hire them as a TA? Yes but the student needs to be informed before they interview that their record will be requested.
 - 4) A senator asked: Who is on the student conduct board? It differs depending on the case.
 - 5) Our guest speakers noted that everything must be documented, even small details. If there is a direct threat by a student, the student may be removed via interim suspension. However, the threat must be extremely high. If the student makes a threat, it must be immediately reported to UPD.

- 6) A senator asked for clarification as to why it is so difficult to get a student suspended. Case law has established this. An example is Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504.
 - 7) A senator asked what legal principal makes it hard to remove students. There are discrimination laws in their favor.
 - 8) A senator asked: Some schools require a drug test for students. Can we find out those results? Check with the Office of Student Engagement and Success to find out if they have those records.
 - 9) A senator voiced a concern about students who are in the nursing program. They are going to hospitals where they have access to drugs. Is the College notified of any problems with students so they can be aware before they do their practicum? Do you inform us if there is an issue with our students? The only cases of which the office has a record is anything that happened on campus or during a university sponsored activity. There are no records if the student gets in trouble off campus.
 - 10) A senator expressed concern that faculty don't feel protected, and noted sometimes it seems the students are protected more than faculty. If it's reported to the office, they then report it to UPD. Faculty should definitely report to them.
 - 11) The guests offered this advice when making a report: It helps to include Student ID when possible when submitting a report.
 - 12) A senator asked what is done for international students. Their families are contacted, even though it is more challenging than native students.
 - 13) A senator asked: What sort of follow up will a faculty member receive after making a report? The reporting faculty member gets response and information, and is involved in the process.
 - 14) A senator requested a sample statement for telling students their records will be checked.
- b. Feedback on Visa issues?
- i. Speaker Larkin asked senators to check with their departments about any visa issues, one report was received from CLA, that stemmed from a situation several years ago.

5. Speaker's report

- a. Faculty Development leave applications are due Friday Oct. 24
- b. Faculty forums Oct. 20 and 21
- c. ITDEC Update
 - i. Working towards producing student photo roster for classes.
 - ii. Using Blackboard to enter grades: new opportunity. COB is piloting.
 - iii. Ongoing issues with Blackboard.
 - iv. Mobile app not very functional for Blackboard.

- v. CONHS: Product used in schools, contracted to enable students to use electronic medical records to do documentation in labs.
 - vi. Dr. Mollick is taking over as ITDEC Rep for Senate.
- d. CPIRA update
- i. Program coordinator from College Station met with this council recently and was very informative about processes there. Their executive team meets with Chancellor Sharp on a regular basis.
 - ii. Chancellor Sharp will be coming to campus and has requested a meeting with Faculty Senators. Maybe someone from CPIRA could also attend this meeting with the Chancellor. Speaker Larkin hasn't heard back yet from President Killebrew's office whether that's an option.
- e. Ethics and Compliance committee update
- i. Default rates on Financial Aid: Our rates are lower than the average. 12% of TAMUCC student loans are in default. State average is 13%; for the US it is 15%.
 - ii. Educational institutions that exceed 30% are not eligible to dispense federal financial aid. Jeannie Gauge is concerned that legislation is trying to target specific academic departments and majors, not just the institutions.
 - iii. Markwood: They may be targeting programs that are overproducing majors that the economy doesn't need.
 - iv. Moreno: very concerned about this in psychology
- f. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Oct 24-25
- i. TAMUC council of Faculty Senates meeting with Dr. James Hallmark. TAMUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- g. Faculty senate (limited) meeting with Chancellor Sharp- November 24 (TAMUCC)
6. Committee reports
- a. Academic Affairs Committee: No new programs have been sent to AAC at this point. At the next meeting, we will consider recommending new language for plagiarism for *Student Handbook*.
 - b. Awards, Bylaws and Elections Committee: Made recommendation for Outstanding First Year Advocate award, Dr. Mark Hartlaub.
 - c. Budget Analysis Committee: Peer study is underway; Kathryn Funk Baxter will be coming to the next meeting to talk about the university's budget. Senators should let BAC Chair Ozymy know of any concerns for her. One question is how the 4-year guaranteed tuition is going to affect the budget long term, especially Merit and Equity pay adjustments.
 - d. Committee on Committees: COC is making progress. For three university committees, COC is waiting its membership requirements before we can recruit faculty volunteers.
 - e. Faculty Affairs Committee:

- i. Recommends Dr. Robert Bezdek and Dr. William Huie for Emeritus status. Faculty Senate does not vote on this.
 - ii. Faculty workload- please encourage faculty to participate in Faculty Forums.
 - iii. FAC is researching how to recognize faculty organizations that are not formally established to conduct official university business, such as AAUP. FS might adopt a process from what other campuses have done.
7. Provost's comments
 - a. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will be meeting next week. Our proposed Ph.D. in Geospatial Computing will be on the agenda for a final vote.
 - b. Vice provost Meyer has convened a group from the divisions of Academic Affairs, Student Engagement and Success, Admissions and the Student Health Center on formulating an institutional response to Ebola.
 - c. There was an accident this morning that caused traffic and caused many to be late. Dr. Markwood asked that faculty be lenient with any students who were late this morning.
 - d. Proceeding with hiring 44 new faculties for these colleges: 5 for COB, 11 for COE, 3 in CONHS, 5 in CLA and 20 for COSE.
 - e. Apologies for the SNAFU and premature release of Department Chair procedure. It was a partial draft with several sections missing. Please see written response (distributed to Senators).
 - f. There is a mistake in the calendar portion of the Provost's update for today. Tiffany Hearn will send a corrected version.
8. Bowden moved to adjourn at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Engledow Brown, Secretary