

**2015-16 Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

October 23, 2:00 PM

Island Hall 323

Senators Present: Anderson, Araiza, Bland, Bruun, Cammarata, Changchit, Day, Denny, Dolan, Griffith, Harrel, Katz, Klaus, Kownslar, Kutil, Mollick, Ozymy, Spaniol, Starek, Thompson, and Valadez

Senators Absent: Flournoy

Ex-Officio: Cassin, Hearne, Quintanilla

Guest: Christine Shupala, Terry Tatum, Marilyn, Kevin Houlihan, Jaclyn Mahlmann,

- 1. Call to order:** 2:00 by Speaker Griffith
- 2. Approval of agenda:** Mollick moved to approve the agenda, Ozymy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- 3. Approval of September 2015 Faculty Senate Minutes:** Dolan moved to approve September Minutes with changes, Corrine Valadez seconded. Minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - A. Kathy Harrell was not in attendance.
 - B. Name spelling corrections.

4. New Business

- A. Speaker Griffith: Welcome back to April Bassett who is back from medical leave.
- B. Guest Speaker, Marilyn Spencer: Distributed "Faculty Compensation Survey Study Findings". Faculty endorsed the Faculty Survey in 2014 and a motion from Katz was put forth to endorse a Faculty Survey for 2015 and seconded by Collins. Discussion regarding merit increases and the inclusion of adjunct faculty in the survey ensued. The motion was passed unanimously.
- C. Guest Speaker, Terry Tatum reported on the University budget including information about strategy items, revenues, and budget complexity. A new Rec Sports fee has been assessed for students to support Rec Sports activities including debt service for the Duggan Center.

Further discussion with Senators commenced about tuition rates, Hazelwood exemptions, expenditures, salary plans, reserves, capital plan update, and future budget strategies. Significant decreases in state funding for higher education has led to tuition increases.

5. Old Business

- A. Ombudsperson Proposal - Faculty Affairs Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate put forth a recommendation to the University. Bryant proposed a motion that the Senate supports the idea of creating an Ombudsperson position to be funded by faculty release time. Ozymy seconded the motion and the motion passed the Senate with a unanimous vote. Provost Quintanilla expressed her support for the recommendation.
- B. Rules and Procedures - Ozymy presented a process for organizing document reviews. The list of documents will be organized by priority, content, and level of review. October 30, 2015 is the deadline for Senate review of documents appearing on the first list including:
 1. *Performance Reviews of Faculty Members*. Senate recommendations: faculty should be involved in setting unit goals in comment seven on page two of the document. Comment ten on

page three should consolidate comments from last year.

2. *Merit Pay for Faculty*

Further comments/suggestions are due to Ozymy by October 30, 2015.

6. New Business

A. Faculty evaluation of administrators currently occurs every three years. The committee has question about which level of administrators are evaluate by faculty and if the frequency of evaluation can be increased. Provost Quintanilla reported that Administrators are evaluated every year as a part of their performance evaluation. Faculty survey of administrator evaluations happens less frequently. Provost Quintanilla is open to more frequent faculty surveys and suggested January as the best time to do the survey. Senators suggested that improvements are needed to the process to assure that all “faculty” receive a link to the survey. Araiza invited Senators to further the discussion with additional their concerns/suggestions/questions directed to her.

B. Bryant voiced concerns about new courses being submitted for approval to be delivered online that may need additional work. The same courses are intended to be delivered in both the online and traditional classrooms which raise pedagogical concerns about the teaching. The issue was tabled until the November meeting.

C Faculty Senate Budget - Speaker presented the budget with discussion. There were not changes to the budget from line items from the 2014-2015 year. Discussion – budget is in excess of needs many years. Budget committee will be responsible for excess budget items. A motion was made to approve the budget by Katz, and the motion was seconded by Ozymy. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Senate.

D. System Speaker meetings.

1. Merit/Equate Wide range of approaches among campuses/universities.

2. System General Council; spoke about the campus carry law. The University must comply with the state law that goes into effect on August 1, 2016. The issue is complex and emotional. A faculty forum is set for November 19 11:30-1:00. Senators should encourage all “faculty” to attend the forum to read the law and which will be sent out to Bryant to faculty. The System Council is facilitating a reasoned dialogue on campus. The University is able to suggest designated "non-carry" areas. These suggestions will go back to the coordinating board for review. Some of issues that will need to be discussed at the forum include the storage of weapon when a student moves from concealed carry area to prohibited area and emergency protocols for violation of the law. “Faculty” is welcome to attend any of the three forums Faculty/Student/Staff. Dolan brought up concerns about the date/time of the faculty forum because many nursing faculty are scheduled in off-campus labs during that time period. Bryant will try to arrange a time when nursing faculty can attend either in person or by WebEx with other faculty.

5. Committee Reports

A. Awards, Bylaws and Elections, Chairman Mollick.

1. New senator Dr. Faye Braun from the College of Education was elected.

2. Recommendations for the Piper Professor Award were submitted. Teaching excellence awards will be announced in November.

3. College of Business Dr. Changchit is resigning from the Faculty Senate due to faculty release time the last day of October. The College of Business will hold an election to fill her position.

B. Budget Committee, Chairman Bland: Tatum presented budget. Senate budget will go on the agenda.

C. Faculty Affairs Committee, Chairman Araiza.

- 1.** The committee is reviewing the curriculum review process. Faculty expressed concerns that minor changes in the course (not substantive changes) are taking too long. Senator reported experience with a two year approval process for non-substantive changes. Discussion that issues with consistency among colleges in the timing and format for submissions may play a roll in the delays.
- 2.** Presenting honors program in the spring.
- 3.** Core Curriculum AP Testing Scores –The state is now requiring that AP scores 3 or better are required to be given credit. Provost reported that the University can challenge the rule. University is collecting data to support increasing credit acceptance standard based on AP test scores.

D. Committee on Committees, Chairman Katz: Who is considered faculty for committee memberships? How are vacancies filled? What if faculty employees move into administration? Create a statement about summer work for committee over the summer.

E. Faculty Affairs, Chairman Bowden: No report.

6. Provost Report

A. Academic Affairs is working towards nine-month calendar for senate review of policies. The goal is to have a more organized and smooth process for policy reviews. Senators were given a handout outlining staffing and position adjustments in Academic Affairs organization aimed at improving the curriculum approval process. No new employers were hired for the changes.

B. Student evaluations – Paper faculty evaluations will be completed for all traditional classrooms. More information will be available in November.

C. Catalog – The software for editing and uploading the catalog is being upgraded in order to improve the process of catalog revisions.

D. Rules and Procedures – Kevin H. will be working on organizing and rules and procedures in Academic Affairs.

E. Program Reviews - The Provost will be overseeing all program reviews.

F. Customer Service – Faculty inquired about the process for reporting issues of concern on campus in order to facilitate service excellence. The Provost suggested a link on the faculty portal to report concerns and to offer suggestions for improving service excellence on the Campus.

G. Faculty Portal - The web page is being revised for the Academic Affairs portal to exclude pictures. A Faculty Resource Guide web page is under development with clear instructions, forms, and deadlines to be organized all in one place. Handout for areas that need to be on the webpage was distributed. Senators should notify the Provost of ideas for additional information that might be helpful on the page.

7. Meeting Adjourned: Spaniol moved to adjourn and Ozymy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.