

Faculty Senate Minutes - 30 September 2011

President Gary Byrd called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. in 201 Classroom Center.

Senators in attendance: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Bartlett, Byrd, Crandall, Jafar, Kuennen, Loftin, Parr-Scanlin, Pendleton, Rausch, Rosa, Severn, Ward, Vizzini

Senators absent: Castillo, Landram, Wilson

Senator substitutes: Nancy Cartwright for Bigham, Hannah Olihah for Drumheller, Mary Jarvis for Johnson

Gary Byrd discussed the problem with construction noise in the JBK and asked for recommendations for a boardroom where Faculty Senate might meet on Fridays.

Approval of Minutes:

Rosa made a motion seconded by Anwar to approve the minutes of the 2 September 2011 Faculty Senate meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Severn made a motion and Anwar seconded to approve the minutes of the 23 September 2011 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate Priorities:

The three Faculty Senate Standing committees of Faculty Development and Student Learning; Budget and Faculty Governance; and Assessment, Advising, Conduct (Ethics), Curriculum and Issues were discussed, but thought not to fit well with current Senate priorities. Formal change and agreement would be required to change the wording of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees. Therefore, Vizzini made a motion seconded by Rosa to not reorganize the Faculty Senate Standing Committees but work instead on issues Faculty Senate believes are current priorities. The motion passed unanimously.

The Faculty Senators then divided into College caucuses to select a representative for each of the four Faculty Senate subcommittees and discuss any other college or departmental issues of concern. Gary Byrd said the subcommittees would bring findings to the full Faculty Senate to discuss before deciding what findings to send forward as recommendations or resolutions. The subcommittees on which Faculty Senate will work this year are:

Cost-analysis of WT administration, academics, and athletics. It was recommended that the cost of everything should be reviewed to obtain the “best bang for the buck,” considering proposed budget cuts. Entire offices and all accounts should be considered, not just salaries. Information is difficult to obtain because of the organization of the WT financial system. Information obtained from the Program Review Committee will be shared and could be used by Faculty Senate.

Members: Alex, Bigham, Byrd, Jafar, Kuennen, Vizzini

Faculty evaluation, mentoring, and retention (tenure and promotion, College and Departmental standards, deadlines, logistics; CIEQ). This subcommittee is to continue working on such concerns as tenure and promotion, College and Departmental standards, and using the CIEQ for on-line or small classes. Last year, Faculty Senate collected Standards from all Departments and Colleges, and an Ad Hoc Faculty Senate subcommittee including Byrd, Pendleton, and Rosa met with Dr. Hallmark and also with Heidi Taylor to try to clear up inconsistencies between what standards are being used and what Dr. O'Brien might be using to convey to the Texas A&M Board of Regents. As reported by the senators present in the meeting, faculty were not aware of standards being approved by the Provost or President. As reported by the Faculty Senators present in the meeting, faculty were not aware of standards being approved by the Provost or President.

Members: Anwar, Byrd, Crandall, Rausch, Ward, Wilson

Faculty teaching/release loads; issues related to Teaching/Graduate Assistants.

Members: Ambrose, Castillo, Landram, Loftin, Severn

Changing WT processes so as to save money, time, and environmental resources (going green and saving money). The university should not waste resources, and faculty should be good role models for students. Campus-wide measures might be considered. For examples, WT should eliminate paper copies for attendance records, procurement cards, scholarships, and syllabi, save paper when printing in the HELC, and copy on both sides of papers. Doors to buildings should be shut to retain warmed or cooled air. Shuttle buses could save fuel by operating when full of passengers. Sprinklers should be set to conserve water. Rosa and Jim Rogers met with Gary Barnes to propose burning methane and making the campus carbon neutral.


Members: Bartlett, Drumheller, Johnson, Pendleton, Rosa

Byrd proposed that the Faculty Senate priority issues concerning summer teaching policies might be handled during a Faculty Senate session but would require time to prepare information on the financial background considering the present budget situation.

The Faculty Senate priority issue of establishing communication of information from the Program Review Committee to faculty was handled by Dr. O'Brien. The faculty representatives on the Program Review Committee might provide general, not detailed, information on issues and concerns to keep faculty informed. The Program Review Committee now is waiting on data to be compiled.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes were approved as amended on 14 October 2011.