

## **Faculty Senate Minutes 2 May 2013**

**Senators Present:** Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Atchison, Crandall, Dalton, De'Armond, Drumheller, Fiaud, Jafar, Johnson, Kuennen, Landram, Loftin, Pendleton, Rausch, Riney, Severn, Takacs, Vizzini, and Ward

**Senator Absent:** Vick

**Guest:** Harry Hueston

**Call to Order:** President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. in the Eternal Flame Room of the JBK.

Ambrose introduced the new Senators: Paul Clark, Vanessa Fiaud, Martin Jacobsen (who will complete the term of Steve Severn) and Steve Crandall (who is replacing himself).

**Approval of Minutes:** Rausch made a motion seconded by Vizzini to approve as amended by Alex, Atchison, and Rausch the minutes of the 19 April 2013 meeting of Faculty Senate. The motion passed unanimously by the Faculty Senators present.

**Ombuds Officer.** Harry Hueston gave a handout on the Ombuds webpage on the WT home page. Ethical requirements are on the first page and FAQs on the second page. On the last page are System requirements and what Faculty Senate and President O'Brien agreed to. Hueston said he is required to submit a quarterly report to the President and Faculty Senate. Hueston said he already met with the Deans Council. He provided information on how to contact him and said he will meet with faculty. Hueston researched what Ombuds officers do at other universities.

Anwar asked if Hueston attended any Ombuds association meetings. Hueston said his goal is to attend a workshop when he can fit it into his teaching schedule. Hueston said he spent two hours with the Texas A&M Ombuds person but was not aware of any TAMU System Ombuds person. Hueston said there are misperceptions of the role of an Ombuds officer. He said discussions are confidential so nothing is put into writing. De'Armond asked when while interacting with faculty should the person be referred to the Ombuds officer. Hueston said faculty should try to work out problems but he is another resource. He said he has no power and reports to no one but is mostly a mediator. Ambrose asked if Hueston helps faculty members with the process of settling problems. Hueston said he tries to deal with regulations and resources but does not yet consider himself an expert in TAMU policies and procedures; he checks and reports back to faculty if he is unsure. Anwar said intimidation, harassment, and retaliation cause problems for faculty. Problems still exist at department and college levels but already have been fixed at higher levels. Anwar asked if being Ombuds Officer is a complex job. Hueston said the job is interesting and he has enjoyed it and is open and willing to learn.

**Consulting document from The Texas A&M University System.** Ambrose said Dr. Shaffer wants Faculty Senate input on the revised consulting document from The Texas A&M University System. Rausch asked what changes the document contained that differed from the original document. Severn asked what was prompting the change. Jafar asked what they are trying to prevent from happening and wants the objective of the form to be defined. Atchison said the form for faculty was changed significantly to be simpler and clearer. Severn said perhaps the document is tied into ethics training and release time. Vizzini asked if the purpose is to prevent faculty from double dipping. Atchison said there is a limit on release time, but faculty can work on Saturdays. Landram asked what if faculty do consulting on a volunteer basis. Jafar said it is not clear about summer consulting if faculty do not teach during the summer. Anwar thinks The Texas A&M University System wants faculty to comply. He said the System is concerned about intellectual property and patents, etc. Faculty cannot use state resources and class time for consulting. Severn said the WT policy is not to miss more than 10 days for consulting. Anwar said students lose when faculty are gone consulting for 10 days. Rausch said he is not present for students when he must spend much time serving on committees and doing university business but he does not officially consult. Vizzini said he does not know the original intent of the policy but would like a history or reason why the policy was put into effect.

**Elections of Faculty Senate officers.** Anwar nominated Bill Ambrose for President. Landram seconded the motion. Raush motioned that nominations cease and Vizzini seconded the motion. The Senators voted unanimously in favor of Bill Ambrose for President.

Riney nominated Tim Atchison for Vice President. Rausch moved that nominations cease and Vizzini seconded the motion. The Senators voted unanimously in favor of Tim Atchison for Vice President.

Atchison nominated Bonnie Pendleton for Secretary. Rausch moved and Vizzini seconded that nominations cease. The Senators voted unanimously in favor.

Packets by the WT candidates for Regents Professor will be in the Cornette Library from 21 May through 4 June. Pendleton will send Faculty Senators an e-mail message to remind them to vote on the two candidates.

The Fall 2013 meetings of Faculty Senate will be on 30 August, 13 and 27 September, 11 and 25 October, 8 and 22 November, and possibly 5 December (if needed).

The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as written were approved by Faculty Senate on 30 August.