

## **Minutes for Faculty Senate 10 April 2015**

**Present:** Ambrose, Blanton, Branson, Browning, Commissiong, Crandall, De'Armond, Diego-Medrano, Dursun-Kilic, Fiaud, Hartin, Klaehn, Lee, Ottoson, Pendleton, Shao, and Takacs

**Absent:** Byrd, DeOtte, Hindman, Osei-Hwere, and Stuntz

**Guest:** Crystal Hughes substituting for Hindman and Bryan Vizzini substituting for Stuntz; Edward Akinyemi and Carolyn Baum

**Call to Order:** President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

**Approval of Minutes:** Takacs made a motion seconded by Fiaud to approve as amended by Dursun-Kilic the minutes of the 27 March 2015 meeting of Faculty Senate. The motion passed unanimously by the Senators present.

De'Armond handed out information on the WT Quality Enhancement Plan that is part of SACS accreditation. Faculty and staff roundtables in Fall 2013 provided input on what students really want, which is life skills. Students unanimously support the QEP. Faculty now are asked to support the proposed QEP. The key learning goal is to foster an institutional environment that encourages and supports application of knowledge and skills in authentic settings through experiential learning opportunities. Learning objectives including discipline knowledge and communication in broad form. A rubric can be designed for assessment. De'Armond said the QEP committee now is working on education and engagement, then assessment and enhancement, innovation during Years 3-5, and impact in Years 4-5. Impact is collective assessment of all the areas. A new assessment person at WT will pull together what is being done. What WT is already doing needs to be reported to SACS. Diego-Medrano asked if the QEP committee could help faculty know how to report what they are already doing. Branson said the nursing department has been doing experiential learning for a long time through hundreds of hours with interns. Fiaud said SES has similar activities. Vizzini said he thinks faculty should be proactive with describing and sharing with others cross-curricular activities they already are doing. He said many programs already have honor societies. Carolyn Baum said other areas besides just the classroom would be involved and the QEP is ongoing and a support system. Diego-Medrano asked how the QEP differs from assistance with resumes by Career Services, etc. She said WT already has services that need to be taken to the students and not just in the Career Services Office, etc. Browning said there is a federal mandate for improving the quality of a student's degree. She said faculty cannot put too much emphasis on activities outside the classroom but need to make classes as engaging as possible and students need to know how to do what faculty members are teaching. Browning made a motion

seconded by Commissioning that Faculty Senate support the current rendition of the QEP and its continued improvement. All Senators present voted in favor of the motion. Student Body President Edward Akinyemi asked Senators to take the information to the faculty in their departments.

Akinyemi said the Student Senate wrote a bill about West Texas Wednesday. He encouraged everyone to tell faculty to wear maroon on Wednesdays to support WT. He said Dr. O'Brien agreed with wearing maroon but did not approve wearing jeans.

Ambrose said Jim Rogers will apply for Regents Professor. Takacs asked what the process entails. The process is lengthy and entailed in an attachment already e-mailed to the Faculty Senators.

At the next meeting of Faculty Senate, Senators should nominate and give short presentations on why their faculty nominees should receive the WT Magister Optimus Award for best teacher. The name of the winner will be kept secret until announced at the first all-campus meeting at the beginning of the fall semester.

A list of WT committees with faculty vacancies was handed out. Senators should review the list and with other Senators in their Colleges decide which faculty member to select for each position and bring the information to the next meeting of Faculty Senate. Senators should come to the meeting with names of faculty to nominate for committees with vacancies for faculty from any College. Faculty members are limited to serving two, three-year terms on a committee. Pendleton will forward an electronic copy of the list to the Senators.

Senators Ambrose, Commissioning, and Fiaud volunteered to help with College elections for new Faculty Senators. Shao said the College of Business will meet at 12:20 p.m. on Thursday, 16 April, in 221 CC. Takacs said the meeting of the Fine Arts and Humanities College will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, 7 May, in the FAC Recital Hall.

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

*These minutes as written were approved at the 24 April 2015 meeting of Faculty Senate.*