

Minutes of Faculty Senate 28 August 2015

Present: Ambrose, Branson, Baker, Blodgett, Combs, Commissiong, Craig, Crandall, DeButte, DeOtte, Dursun-Kilic, Fiaud, Hartin, Hindman, King, Klaehn, Lee, Lust, Osei-Hwere, Pendleton, Shao, and Stuntz.

Absent: Meredith, Ottoson, Wilson

Guests: Ian Strachan (substituting for Meredith), Mary Rausch (substituting for Ottoson), and Traci Fredman (substituting for Wilson); Dr. Christina Cox-Leisinger and Mike Knox.

Call to Order: President Stuntz called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

Introduction of new members: The new members of the senate introduced themselves

Welcome announcement: Welcome by President Stuntz.

Approval of Minutes: Hindman made a motion seconded by Commissiong to approve as written the minutes of the 7 may 2015 meeting of Faculty Senate. The motion passed unanimously by the Senators present.

Guest presentation:

Dr. Christina Cox-Leisinger and Mike Knox came to visit regarding the services provided by the BIT team. The BIT team provides supportive services for students as well as faculty. Early intervention is key and students often will be thankful for the referral. Several reasons for not referring were discussed, from "not get the student in trouble", to fear of retaliation. There is close partnership with other services in the university including Counseling Services, Academic Services, Police Services. Combs and Lust expressed the possibility to have text services connected to the BIT team for easier accessibility at times. Cox-Leisinger acknowledged that it would be a great idea. Badgett asked whether the report could be done with or without the student knowledge. Cox-Leisinger said this process was different from the student conduct process and that best efforts were made to keep anonymous the reports stated as such.

Old Business:

Promotion and Tenure: Sitting in Dr. O'Brien's office, waiting to be signed. All suggestions approved through the senate and the Handbook Committee are in. The new P&T are set to begin Fall 2015. Tenured faculty members will be evaluated with the post tenure review every 6 years.

New Business:

- Restructuring of the senate
 - Handouts: Faculty Senate composition/requirements/term/selection process at other A&M system universities & number of tenure track/tenured faculty in each department at WTAMU

Several suggestions were made: DeOtte suggested to maintain some level of equity of representation a bicameral system could be used. Another suggestion included giving each college a defined number of senate seats and the college would be responsible for internal distribution among departments. The question was raised about representation of adjunct and instructors. The knowledge of university functioning was raised and the suggestion to include a residency requirement was expressed. A residency requirement of 3 years was mentioned and Commissioning expressed that it might be too long if some faculty had great ideas to propose. Kilic said that any faculty can come to the senate as a guest and express ideas, or they could speak with their senator. Craig and DeButte said that some faculty are advised to wait until they are tenured to be on the senate. Combs said to keep it simple as with an increased people on the senate, less work is likely to be done. Concerns regarding representation were expressed. Commissioning moved to continue the discussion online. (2nd by Craig).

- Gun issue

The president has asked for faculty input. The default is guns are allowed everywhere on campus, except for athletic ticketed events. General prohibition on campus will not be allowed. Suggestions for gun free zones include:

- Labs with dangerous chemicals and compressed gas
- Grievance committees
- Counseling Services
- Engineering labs (safety issue)
- Physical assessment labs
- VHAC

Each location suggested will need a good justification. Commissioning asked whether the “rules would follow the entities.” As for grievance committees as they might be held in various locations on campus. Baker stated that gun owners are expecting not to be able to carry into hospitals and medical facilities. Klaehn asked about faculty offices and suites. DeButte asked about rules at the Amarillo Center. Crandall asked about the Fines Arts Center. It was suggested to invite Shawn Burns to present to the senate and answer some of the senators’ questions.

Other Business:

- Parking Spaces: Shao mentioned that it was difficult for faculty members who need to leave campus in the day and come back. It is “holding academics back”.

- Swipe Stations: Not ADA compliant. Creation of log jam. Issues when back to back classes.

Announcements:

Convocation September 24. Very sparse advertisement. Shanna Peoples will be the speaker at the event. Inform the faculty to be present in regalia.

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa A. Fiaud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "F".

Vanessa A. Fiaud, Secretary