

## **WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

### **August 30, 2024**

**Attended:** Kenneth Leitch, Gary Byrd, Nancy Garcia-Franken, Brandon Bang, Kristy Bartlett, Leon Chen, David Craig, Traci Fredman, Bridget Guerrero, Callie Hisek, David Howe, Turkan Kilic, Mark McKnight, Audrey Meador, Shanna Peeples, Blake Price, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, John Shanks, Brandli Stitzel, Shiquan Tao, Vinu Unnikrishnan, Kerrie Young

**Absent:** Fisseha Alemayehu, Matt Reardon

**Proxies:** Erick Butler

**Guests:** None

The regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Aug. 30 was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Kenneth Leitch in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center's Eternal Flame room.

#### **Approval of Prior Meetings**

The minutes for the regular meetings on Apr. 12 were reviewed. Callie Hisek moved to approve the with minor revisions and was seconded. Minutes for the regular meeting on May 10 were also reviewed. David Craig moved to approve the minutes with minor revisions and was seconded.

#### **Officer's Reports and Remarks**

President Leitch reported that Dave Rausch will continue as the Faculty Ombuds Officer and shared information about attending the TAMUS Assembly of Faculty Senates meeting on Sept 6-8.

No new reports from President-Elect Byrd or Secretary García-Franken.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### *Faculty Handbook Committee*

There was no new report from the committee, and there was a discussion about reconstituting the committee.

##### *Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs*

There was no new report from the committee, and there was a discussion about reconstituting the committee.

Craig moved to reconstitute the committees at the next regular meeting and was seconded.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### *Magister Optimus*

There was a discussion about promoting the award amongst faculty to receive more nominations and the option to award at the end of the spring semester rather than the fall

was introduced; however, such change would have to go first in the Faculty Handbook. We will revisit the option after the Handbook Committee has been formed.

#### *University Committee Vacancies*

University committee vacancies were shared to seek nominations.

#### **New Business**

Leitch requested feedback on Cengage & McGraw Hill book use. Some senators reported that students are “happy” that the books are free. However, there have been some challenges with technology and access to the books. “Single-point of contact” service seems to be an issue.

Callie Hisek shared that the procard and receipt process is perceived by some faculty as cumbersome and that a less time-consuming process would allow faculty to spend more time focusing on preparing for class, engaging with students, and/or conducting research.

Dave Howe made a motion to change the senate regular meeting frequency from twice a month to once a month. Motion seconded. After voting, motion was not passed. David Craig made a motion to continue to have regular senate meetings twice a month. The motion was seconded and passed.

David Craig moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Garcia-Franken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy García-Franken