

WTAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes September 27, 2024

Attended: Kenneth Leitch, Gary Byrd, Nancy Garcia-Franken, Fisseha Alemayehu, Brandon Bang, Kristy Bartlett, Leon Chen, David Craig, Traci Fredman, Bridget Guerrero, David Hart, David Howe, Turkan Kilic, Mark McKnight, Audrey Meador, Shanna Peeples, Blake Price, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, John Shanks, Brandli Stitzel, Shiquan Tao, Vinu Unnikrishnan

Absent: Callie Hisek, Jim Rogers, Kerrie Young

Proxies: Stephen Karaganis, Angelo O'Dierno

Guests: None

The regular meeting of the West Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Sept. 27, 2024, was called to order at 12:17 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 Sept. 12 were reviewed. Bridget Guerrero moved to approve the minutes with corrections (i.e. name corrections and formatting). The motion was seconded and passed.

Officer's Reports and Remarks

President

Two surveys were sent to gather feedback about digital textbooks and university credit cards; senators were asked to distribute them to colleges. Responses are needed by Wed. 09 Oct. 2024 by 5 p.m.

Kenneth Leitch met with President Wendler on Sept. 17. Topics discussed were enrollment, keeping indebtedness low, discouraging students from online gambling, merit raises, research center, and the TX legislature 2025 including LEED.

President-Elect

No new business to report.

Secretary

No new business to report.

Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

The committee's chair selection is pending. A topic that is being discussed is the training requirements from HR.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

The committee's chair selection is pending. The committee will contact Student Government and start the conversation.

Equity Pay Ad Hoc Committee

Dave Howe will be stepping down from the committee and the role of chair. Nominations were sought to replace the Equity Pay Ad Hoc Committee. Brandli Stitzel will be replacing Dave Howe on the committee.

Unfinished Business

Library Senator Vacancy: two nominees, need to complete the election. Kenneth Leitch is leading the election.

New Business

Faculty Development Leave (FDL) by 15 Oct 2024: will be sent to campus and encourage applicants

Kenneth Leitch solicited and has received some Piper and Regents Professor nominations. Faculty Senate voted anonymously on their top choice and alternative for both Piper and Regents Professor nominations.

President Walter Wendler will be meeting with the colleges. Topics of discussion might include merit, enrollment, textbooks, etc.

Gary Byrd began a discussion of a lack of a “feedback loop” with the Registrar’s Office concerning the course schedule and many corrections having to be done after it is published. Byrd suggested adding a question in the administrator evaluations, and David Craig also suggested that we invite a representative from the Registrar’s Office to visit with the Faculty Senate.

Administrator evaluations were discussed and will be distributed in the spring semester.

Upcoming in October 2024

Comprehensive Post-Tenure Review committees will be put together in October.

We are accepting Faculty Development Leave (FDL) applications through Oct. 15.

Adjournment

Matt Reardon moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

Nancy García-Franken