

Faculty Senate, August 28, 2009

- 1) Meeting called to order by President Stuntz at 12:15p.m.
- 2) Senators in attendance were Bigham, Branson, Byrd, Castillo, Chenoweth, Combs, Commissiong, Crafton, Davis, DeOtte, Friske, Issa, Kilic, Landram, Lee, Rosa, Parr-Scanlin, Stuntz, Trela, and ex-officio past-president Hansen. Senators absent were Browning, Parker, and Wilson.
- 3) Minutes from April 30, 2009, motion to approve by Randy Combs, seconded by Gary Bigham. Approved.
- 4) Senators introduced themselves.
- 5) Comments from Dr. O'Brien
 - a) Welcome. Early indicators are for a great year. Enrollment was 7,535 last fall, as of this morning it is 7855. May go down when purge out those who have not paid. 7800 would be 3.9% increase. Both undergrad and grad are going up. This means several hundred thousand in designated tuition.
 - b) Housing is completely full with 1,600 on campus. Made decision this week that the replacement for Hudspeth will be 400 beds. University's objective is to have enough housing for 30% of the undergraduates. We are currently at 19%. WTAMU can change its policy to fill halls. This generates auxiliary enterprise revenue.
 - c) New recreational sports complex \$21.5M project will start in the spring.
 - d) Ag/nursing renovation: will start by monetizing HEAF funds. Need more space for engineering: one of fastest growing programs. Civil engineering program to start in 2010,
 - e) Construction projects ongoing: Palo Duro Hospital being renovated for research facility. Right now about 25% of work is ongoing. This is important because future research enhancement funding will depend on external funding received. Hospital exterior is not part of current work.
 - f) Stafford had internal work, and it will be repainted. Replacing windows in Cousins.
 - g) Budgets: more detail at later meeting. Did get bump in state funding. Some caveats: of the \$791k in General Revenue Funding, \$416k cannot be in base funding: it is hold harmless. WT's share of the state allocation is shrinking because we are growing less than other regions of the state. Therefore that \$416k cannot be allocated to continuing lines. So, decided to use in ways to increase enrollment with programs such as summer bridge. Some of incentive money (a.5m fy09) this year that total for biennium. Marketing, M&O grad rates and increase in student credit hours.
 - h) Small increase in HEAF thru 2011, then will decline thru 2015.
 - i) Units are looking at 5% and 8% decrements. Be prepared for reallocations within institution. TAMU is doing \$12m, Regents are mandating for all in TAMUS. NEEDS to be done E.G. start every summer with \$800k deficit – rest has come from salary savings. \$26m is reserve mandated 3 mos. Right now at \$24m 2nd example haven't budgeted renovation for residential

life. Music and athletics have \$230k in residential scholarships. Residential life gets charged \$500k by IT for phone lines. Would like increase in technology fee. Athletics is under-funded by \$500k each year (same amount as 2003). They are raising 900k in external funds.

- j) He got promotion and tenure last week. Recommendations from Academic affairs for market adjustments. Maybe next week. Goal is to bring faculty to median for state. Progress on assistant professor level.
 - k) Q: letters last week were from merit process. Separate from that, a subset will get another letter reflecting a market adjustment. A. PTI also needs to be increased, which becomes a big adjustment.
- 6) Dr. Hallmark – most of items are in agenda, won't discuss individual items.
- a) Effort at associate dean level: what can academic units do for retention? Are there ways to capture earlier in curriculum? Student activities and organizations that can involve the freshmen and sophomores? This is not about passing more students, but engaging them in the discipline earlier.
- 7) Old Business:
- a) Elect a new vice-president. Anand Commissioning nominated Yvette Castillo; the nomination was seconded by Perry Crafton. Bob DeOtte was nominated by Jean Stuntz, nomination seconded by Duane Rosa. Robert DeOtte was elected.
 - b) Vacant committees:
 - i) ASE – IRB: Julie Gaasch
 - ii) CONHS - Grievance Committee: Debbie Gillispie; Killgore Research Committee: Larry Barnes and Adam Parker; Distinguished Lectures Series Committee: Lisa Davis; and Faculty Emeritus: Heidi Taylor
 - iii) FAH – Faculty Development Committee: Bill Takacs
 - iv) ESS - Alcohol and Drugs: Dwight Vick; Faculty Emeritus: Conn Thomas; IT: Dave Rausch; and IRB: Ashley Campbell
 - c) Standing committees of Faculty Senate were approved as assigned before the meeting. Committees are to meet before the next meeting of Faculty Senate to elect a chair, review duties, and report back with an agenda for this year. Committee members are:
 - i) *Faculty Development and Student Learning*: Anderson, Bigham, Branson, Castillo, Combs, Commissioning, Wilson
 - ii) *Budget and Faculty Governance*: Byrd, Crafton, DeOtte, Dursun-Kilic, Friske, Issa, Landram
 - iii) *Assessment, Advising, Conduct (Ethics), Curriculum and Issues*: Lee, Parr-Scanlin, Rosa, Trela, Davis, Parker

- d) Annual Review of Faculty Performance is with Dr. Hallmark.
- e) Promotion and Tenure is on Dr. O'Brien's desk.
- f) Post-tenure review waiting action by Dean's council.
- g) Department standards still need to be formalized in many departments across campus.
- h) Ad-hoc committee on externally funded development leave. Needs new members. Added Duane Rosa, Bob DeOtte.
- i) An ad hoc committee was formed to evaluate the distance learning fee. Initially the committee will look at what other TAMUS campuses are doing, and follow up with other states. Committee members are Lisa Davis, Gary Byrd, and Marietta Branson.

8) NEW BUSINESS

- a) A motion to approve a resolution honoring Dr. Robert Hansen was made by Rosa, seconded by Crafton, unanimously approved.
- b) 5-year strategic plan. ENCOURAGE faculty to look at it, since it's now on the web and available for comment and input. It's important, need to get behind to be able to move forward 2009-2014.
 - i) Strategy: 1.5.4 what constitutes low enrollments? Hallmark: undergrad defined as fewer than 5 over 5 years – university wide none qualify. Geography did, and it's been eliminated.
- c) Graduate faculty status: graduate dean is working on this, waiting to hear about those standards. Policy requires faculty meeting.
- d) President has mentioned a desire for curriculum change processes to be more cohesive and more transparent.
- e) Dr. O'Brien would like faculty senate to choose the commencement speaker. Need an ad-hoc committee
 - i) Chenoweth move, Castillo second Faculty Senate resolves that the President form a new university wide committee with the responsibility for obtaining commencement speakers and for deciding on the issuance of honorary degrees. Motion withdrawn.
 - ii) DeOtte moved and Rosa seconded that: The faculty senate will form an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for a standing committee which will have the responsibility for finding commencement speakers and determining recipients of honorary degrees. Approved. Committee members are DeOtte, Crafton, and Lee.
- f) CIEQ.
 - i) CANNOT change that every faculty issues to every student in every class. Will not be able to change on-line feature.

- ii) The plan right now is for the computer system will change so that it will be a popup that student will see automatically until they respond to it. Much discussion ensued, revolving around: Concerns about the way it is administered influencing the outcome, and the different measurement capabilities of available instruments. Sample has potential legal problems, so went with census. Determination to continue discussion through the semester. Faculty will be receiving a compilation of tips from those instructors who have an unusually high response rate. Provost wants this viewed as a single data point for evaluation, and not weighted so heavily.
 - g) Faculty Development Leave. Motion to change date of application to December 1 with application recommendations from the Faculty Senate sent to Provost in January for leave requests for the following academic year. Trela moved, Commissioning seconded. Approved.
 - h) Motion to have a second application period was rejected.
 - i) President feels there is not much co-operation between faculty and library.
 - j) Faculty club: should be someplace to get together and socialize.
- 9) ANNOUNCEMENTS
- a) Many celebrations for centennial year. Departments are encouraged to have their activities listed.
 - b) Five year interim report to SACS is due in 2011. The university needs to have assessments in place for a couple of years and working before then.
 - c) NSSE scores are in for last year. WTAMU scored low on perceived academic standards. Be tougher!
 - d) Questions were asked about faculty parking, including the number of spaces north of the FAC and student use of faculty spaces. Stuntz will research.
 - e) Fixed term faculty provisions have been approved, and the Deans have been notified.
- 10) Rosa moved meeting be adjourned, Adjourned at 1:45p.m.