

Final Faculty Senate Minutes for March 12, 2010  
JBK Room 11, 12:15 pm

1. Meeting called to order by Stuntz at 12:15pm. Members present: Ambrose, Bigham, Branson, Byrd, Castillo, Chenoweth, Commissiong, Crafton, Davis, DeOtte, Dursun-Kilic, Friske, Hansen, Issa, Landram, Lee, Parr-Scanlin, Rosa, Stuntz, Trela, and Wilson. Substitutes: Trudy Hanson for Browning. Members absent: Parker . Guests: Ted DuBois, Mark Hiner.
2. Following motion by Byrd and second by Davis Minutes from February 26, 2010 were approved as submitted.
3. Comments from Dr. O'Brien
  - a. Have not received anything additional on budget. Expect to get something in April when instructions for next year will come. Quite confident that we will get a cut. Don't know if it will be both years of biennium, or just second year which would be \$1.3M. Probably the cut amount will be the base entering the following biennium. Projected shortfalls range from \$12B-\$18B. Stimulus Medicaid money will run out, which will have to be met.
  - b. WT's GR appropriation included a hold harmless, which will probably go away (\$450k).
  - c. Right now have a flexible hiring freeze, \$900k in faculty and \$500k in staff savings. Have authorized go ahead for Dept. Heads in Math and Nursing, plus several other faculty positions. Also have authorized 2 staff in STARR center, and 1 in accounts receivable.
  - d. Good news is that decline in year-to-year in sales tax receipts has slowed down.
  - e. Provost Office had to cut over \$1M in salaries alone.
  - f. Unanswered question in strategic planning process: how do WE define quality? Needs to happen in the environment where legislature plans to fund on retention and graduation rates.
4. Reports from Committees
  - a. Standing Committees
    - i. Faculty Development and Student Learning – no report.
    - ii. Budget and Faculty Governance – no report.
    - iii. Assessment, Advising, Conduct, and Curriculum – no report.
    - iv. Commencement Speaker Committee – hope progress is being made. Initially told that budget for entire year might be \$30k. Meeting today to talk about names versus budget. Need to get someone finalized. Responsibility extends through May 2011.
  - b. Ad Hoc Committees
    - i. Honorary Degree Recipient Requirements and Procedures – no report.
5. Old Business
  - a. Evaluation of Teaching – discussion of rubrics

- i. Much discussion with a major concern being the discipline specificity of rubrics, and another being the use of the rubric for self-improvement vs. performance appraisal. Concern that Colleges need assessment for accreditation purposes.
    - b. Distance Education Fee – Stuntz will forward questions to Webb for his response. She was told that there is a cost associated with making WTClass accessible off-campus.
    - c. Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senates
      - i. Highlight of meeting is report from individual schools.
      - ii. Student Evaluations of Faculty Performance (Online Evaluations)
        - 1. Although there is an initial dip in submissions of evaluations at first, response rate rebound after a couple of years. Repeated email reminders reinforced with faculty encouragement help.
        - 2. The current ruling is that online typewritten comments are subject to open records requests whereas the hand written comments of students are not. To date there have been no known requests filed.
        - 3. Some schools had considered either making mandatory or bribing students. In the end, none did.
      - iii. Several campuses have gone tobacco free.
      - iv. Many schools are seeing significant jumps in enrollment.
      - v. Most schools are having minimal adjustments because of the 5% rescission.
        - 1. As little as 1 ½ percent at some schools, depending upon the portion of the budget derived from state revenue.
        - 2. Others are not pursuing capital projects.
        - 3. TAMU Commerce is hiring faculty:
          - a. \$90K for an assistance professor of biological sciences,
          - b. \$110K for an assistant professor of accounting.
    - d. Formation of Advisory Council for External Funding
      - i. Committee presented the resolution for formation of an Advisory Council for External Funding.
      - ii. Following discussion, the resolution attached as appendix A was approved by Senate vote.
6. New Business
  - a. “The Hanging” – concern about implications of name. Originally a nickname used by the photographer. How about “Lighting the Flame”? Stuntz will take forward.
  - b. Plus One option for Insurance –
    - i. Mark Hiner said that at the Feb. meeting, TAMU said they to present an option to expand coverage for non-traditional household. Plus one as they are proposing is un-restricted. Most plus-one programs in existence are restricted. Examples are domestic partner, adult child/parent living in the home. UT system is also considering. 10% dependent enrollment over next 5 years projected to cost \$75M with a no restriction plus-one option. Increased costs are a bigger concern if enrollment is restricted. UT has

schools pushing it but the UTsystem has announced that it will not support. Not the right time financially for this proposal. Because TAMUS is a self-insured system, increased costs in any category can cause premium increases in all categories. Self-insurance also means there is no profit issue in our plans. Vote: split slightly in favor of a plus-one proposal.

- c. Evaluation of Administrators – Voted against this suggestion.
  - d. Regents Professor Nominations
    - i. Will ask Barbara Petty to send a campus wide email asking for nominations. Needs to be completed by April 28
  - e. Teaching excellence award deadline for application extended 2 weeks from today, which was the original deadline.
7. Announcements
- a. Library Update – New website on Georgia O’Keeffe at <http://www.wtamu.edu/library/okeeffe/> Two trial databases on Slavery and African-American History at <http://www.wtamu.edu/library/indexes/trials.shtml> New photo exhibit by Amy Andersen. Library will be open Monday-Friday of Spring Break week.
  - b. Faculty Senate Medallions – no update.
  - c. HB 2504 – law that mandates by Fall 2010 student evaluations and vitas must be within 3 clicks of university home page. Also need to plan for cost of teaching each class.
8. Motion for adjournment by Rosa and meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Chenoweth, Secretary.

These minutes have been approved.

## Appendix A:

Resolution for Establishment of a Faculty Senate Standing Committee to advise the University Administration on issues of importance to those faculty who write grant proposals for external funding

Whereas the Administration of West Texas A&M University is encouraging the Faculty Senate to increase its role in shared governance of the University, and

Whereas West Texas A&M University is increasingly emphasizing the need to obtain external grant funding, and

Whereas there exists a pool of information and experience at West Texas A&M University among those who write proposals for competitive external grant funds, and

Whereas the needs of those writing proposals to different agencies and foundations for competitive external grants differ by department, discipline, and purpose

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate (FS) of West Texas A&M University recommends the establishment of a standing committee under the auspices of the FS and composed of faculty and staff who write proposals for external funding to advise the Chief Research Officer (CRO) on the needs of the various individuals writing proposals for grants. The committee will be selected from the FS and the faculty and staff at large. Only faculty and staff who actually write proposals for external funding will be eligible to serve. External funding regardless of source or application will qualify. The committee will consist of up to two faculty representatives from each college and one staff member at large from among those departments and divisions on campus that write proposals for external funding. Committee members will be selected to non-consecutive three years terms. The first committee will have one-third of members eligible for a one-year term. Those members assigned a one-year term will be allowed a one-time renewal for three years. An additional third of the membership will serve two years and not be eligible for a consecutive term, and the final third will serve three years and not be eligible for a consecutive term. Representatives from the same college will have different term expiration dates. The Faculty Senate, in consultation with the University's CRO and the Director of Sponsored Research Administration (SRA), will appoint members at the second Senate meeting of the new academic year. The FS will appoint the chair of the committee from among the Faculty Senators. The chair of the committee will report recommendations to the CRO. The Chief Research Officer of the University and the Director of Sponsored Research Administration will serve as ex officio members. Additional duties of the committee will be to provide a forum for mentoring faculty who have not previously submitted proposals for external grants but who desire to do so.