

TAMU-SA Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Faculty Senate was called to order at 11:05 a.m. on May 3, 2013 in Brooks room 172 by Megan Wise de Valdez.

Present:

Megan Wise de Valdez, Brian Brantley, Vicky Elias, Stefanie Wittenbach, Richard Green, Jacob Sherman, Ramona Pittman, Kathleen Voges, Jim Hackard, Robert Vinaja, Ed Westermann, Claire Nolasco, Durant Frantzen, Melissa Jozwiak, Brent Snow

Other attendees: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Administrative Update

Faculty load reports: Procedure was changed this semester because the Provost's Office was having trouble getting the load reports back from faculty. The Deans now receive the reports, and they are responsible for reviewing and returning them to Dr. Snow. Faculty can request the report from Dr. Snow's office.

Update on Board of Regents meeting of this week:

The Board of Regents (BOR) approved changing the title of School Heads to Deans. When Dr. Snow arrived, he changed "divisions" to "schools." He intended to wait a year or so and then request that they become "colleges." In the meantime, it became significantly more involved to get that done. The Higher Education Coordinating Board now has to approve that and then the BOR approves it. Symbolically, it is important to show the movement of the university—programs, size, etc. BOR approved tenure requests that were submitted. All tenure decisions must be approved by the BOR. Promotions are approved at the Chancellor's level. Seven faculty were approved for either tenure or promotion. We will have about fifteen going up for tenure and/or promotion next year. Tenured and promoted: Bill Bush, Durant Frantzen, Judy Lewis, Jenny Wilson, and Debbie Vera. Tracy Hurley and Carolyn Green promoted to professor.

BOR approved naming the Main Campus building after Frank Madla.

BOR approves appointments at the VP level, so they approved Melissa Mahan's appointment.

An honorary PhD will be awarded to Alonso Ancira at this month's graduation ceremony.

A senator raised a question regarding the Space Committee's review of space for new faculty. Dr. Snow responded that there is very little space for faculty. Deans are reviewing space, even though the Space Committee hasn't met. No final recommendations yet. Could there be a room at Brooks for Arts & Sciences faculty?

Action item: Faculty input needs to be included in discussions about where to put faculty offices. This item needs to put on new business for the next Faculty Senate agenda. It should also be discussed at faculty meetings and input moved up to department heads and deans.

Executive Committee Update

Megan requested introductions of everyone in the room.

The Executive Committee met in April to make more updates to the Constitution. We are close to having final revisions to the constitution. A motion was made and seconded to establish a committee to continue to review the constitution. It was suggested that the committee work on it over the summer with a September 1st deadline. It would then be sent to faculty following the September Senate meeting, per the constitution. Motion passes.

Action Item: Brian will establish a constitution revision committee.

Committee Reports

The Room 352 Committee voted to recommend relocating the tutoring center out of room 352 and purchasing additional laptops for use in regular classrooms. The committee's report will be posted on the Faculty Senate intranet. The committee included decision-makers: Student Affairs, each unit affected, and scheduling staff. Dr. Snow reminded the Senate that it is ultimately the Executive Team that makes the decisions on space allocation. A motion was made and seconded to approve Room 352 recommendations as stated in the committee's report. There were two abstentions. Motion passes.

Faculty Handbook Committee: The committee reviewed faculty handbooks from other universities and identified A&M College Station's handbook as a good example. The committee suggested also putting together a reference file to supplement the handbook. The committee will come back with a list of things identified during review of the handbook for the reference file.

President's Circle research awards committee: Megan explained to new senators the president's request for Faculty Senate to identify a process for funding faculty research. The committee that was created at the last Faculty Senate meeting has begun discussions.

The committee will be working heavily in the next four weeks because the money has to be awarded by Sept. 1st. They will be working on who is eligible, the criteria for a strong application, award amounts, etc. Since time is of the essence it will be difficult for Faculty Senate to vote on it unless there is an e-mail vote over the summer. Megan proposes e-mail discussion and vote over the summer.

Comment: This is a faculty/student research award, not a faculty award since Dr. Ferrier is requiring that the research include undergraduate students. It's a very big project to try to fit into a very small window. Equities are already potentially disproportionate because of the differences in research in the disciplines. The committee and the Faculty Senate can define what the undergraduate research portion could look like. Make it look as broad as possible so that as many faculty as possible can take advantage of the grant. Is there an opportunity to revisit this? A suggestion was made that some percentage of grants awarded include students and the rest can be just from faculty. We can use that suggestion and discuss that with Dr. Ferrier. Is it ongoing money or one-time funds? Dr. Ferrier would like for it to be ongoing funds, but it's for this year at this point. When does the money have to be spent? End of next fiscal year. College of Education is not represented on the committee. Melissa Jozwiak volunteered. Committee will meet ASAP. They will draft something and send it to the Faculty Senate.

Megan was thanked for all of her good work as president of the Faculty Senate. She thanked the other Executive Committee members.

Old Business

Brian gave a report of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting. The report will be attached to the minutes for this meeting. There is a potential change to formula funding that would base it on outcomes rather than enrollment. There is more potential for problems with that model. For example, how are contingency faculty—adjuncts, non-tenured faculty--represented in Senate and the faculty handbook? How are they evaluated? Brian announced that Mary Mayorga was elected Vice Chair of Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

Library Committee recommendation needs to be sent to Dr. Snow.

Action item: Megan to send recommendation of the Senate regarding the Library Committee to Dr. Snow.

New Business

Elections were held for Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Vice President/President-Elect. The person serving as Vice President needs to be an incoming Senator. Everyone is eligible to be Parliamentarian and Secretary. Eligible for VP: Ed Westermann, Jacob Sherman, Ramona Pittman, Kathleen Voges, Melissa Jozwiak, Robert Vinaja.

Nominations for Parliamentarian:

Richard Green--elected

Jacob Sherman
Mary Mayorga

Nominations for Secretary:

Vicky Elias—elected by acclimation

Nominations for Vice President:

Ed Westermann—elected by acclimation

Announcements:

Brian is on a university committee to establish a system for evaluation of department heads and deans. Faculty are concerned that there is no voice in the evaluation of individuals in these positions. The committee will likely meet over the summer, but the majority of the work will take place during the fall semester. The deadline for preparing a recommended process is the end of the fall semester. If any Senators have anything that they want introduced into the process, they should contact Brian and provide that input.

Faculty Senate will have a public web site. Stefanie will be meeting with ITS and Brian on Monday. It will be handed off to Vicky and Brian after Monday.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 by Brian Brantley. The next general meeting time and date are to be determined.

Minutes submitted by:

Stefanie Wittenbach