

Faculty Senate Meeting 9/14/11

Present: Dr. Ferrier, Dr. Snow, Dr. Richard Green, Dr. Pat Holmes, Dr. Dennis Elam, Dr. Durant Frantzen, Dr. Kevin Kendrick, Dr. Megan Wise de Valdez, and Stefanie Wittenbach

Dr. Ferrier started off the meeting asking senators to describe any issues with campus that we are aware of. The following observations were made:

We've made progress since earlier points in time, but there is a growing division between faculty and staff because we've grown too big to know everyone.

The pace of the campus' growth is phenomenal, and we need to make sure we keep in mind value and quality, make sure our students are as academically prepared as possible, and establish a reputation with a niche. We need to balance growth and quality.

We need to:

- make sure we have open lines of communication among departments.
- work more with the Alamo Colleges on what our needs are to bring them up, too.
- Stop and focus on providing support services so students can meet the expectations
- Ensure we're providing a quality product.
- Get on the same page about our expectations for both faculty and students

Some suggestions:

- Mentor faculty program
- Comprehensive literacy program
- Learning support center
- Faculty profiles on the web
- Document committee membership and activities
- Better articulate processes—who can make decisions; who to go to to get things done, particularly time-sensitive issues, the hiring process, budget/finance issues

Dr. Ferrier: "One thing we don't want to do is lower standards." War room was established to communicate with faculty and staff and to bring everyone together. "How can we be a large university with a small university feeling?"

Dr. Snow: The faculty senate at a large university would look very different, because it would be made up of tenured faculty. This is a great opportunity to get involved and stay involved. Beginning with this fiscal year, budgets have been pushed down to schools and departments.

Our number one priority is accreditation. We will want to have new programs ready in a queue to add after our application for accreditation. Bachelor's and Master's degrees only go through the Board of Regents for approval now, not the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Two agenda items for the next BOR meeting: Bachelor's in Spanish and a Bachelor's in Community Health.

Dr. Ferrier asked, "where are the jobs and where are the needs?" She indicated that she and Dr. Snow are working on the following:

- Teacher quality—pilot in 5 schools that is bringing great accolades to our university. She would like to see models of excellence in every school.
- Irrigation Technology Center—she will be taking a trip to Israel in November to see work that is being done there.

Cybersecurity, working with the military
Allied Health
Film School
Language School

In terms of downward expansion, it might make sense to begin with an academy for graduating high school seniors. This has been successful for other upper division schools planning downward expansion.

The President has asked the A&M System for \$75 million for a second building.

Advisory Councils for each department were discussed.

The group discussed scheduling for future meetings of the Executive Committee and open faculty senate meetings, along with Dr. Snow and Dr. Ferrier's attendance.