

Texas A&M University-San Antonio Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the TAMU-SA Faculty Senate was called to order at 11:10 on Friday, December 7, 2012, at Main Campus by Megan Wise de Valdez.

Present

Megan Wise de Valdez, Brian Brantley, Durant Frantzen, Jim Hackard, Vicky Elias, Kevin Kendrick, Dennis Elam, Stefanie Wittenbach, Carolyn Green, and Pat Holmes

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Administrative Update

None provided.

Executive Committee Update

As a follow-up to the proposal on graduate and transfer requirements, Dr. Snow requested a meeting with Durant. Durant suggested to Dr. Snow that we wait for the ETS data for spring 2013 to incorporate into the proposal and presentation to the school heads. Results should be ready in January with a decision in February. The test is now required. Dr. Snow asked Durant to present the proposal to the school heads for their input. Durant indicated that there is a question regarding the validity of the test. For example, writing questions are multiple choice. Dr. Snow indicated that that is a really significant policy, and that the proposal would be stronger using the data from the test, whereby students are benchmarked nationally, rather than anecdotal data. This doesn't apply to the graduation policy proposal.

Megan's recommendation is to do the same as we did with the post-tenure review policy: after getting the ETS data, to rewrite the recommendation and resubmit it to Dr. Snow. This issue also brought up the point that we need to add language to our document processing procedure that Dr. Snow can solicit input from others after receiving the Faculty Senate recommendation. In addition, the Faculty Senate needs to know more about the ETS testing, for example, what version of the test is being used?

Action item: Durant will forward an updated version of the report after getting the data from the ETS test.

The Post-Tenure Review Policy has been finalized and submitted to the Board of Regents.

Regarding the discussion of room 352, a senator has been placed on the Space Management Committee. Vicky Elias will serve in this capacity.

Action items: Add membership on the Space Management Committee to the standing committees in the constitution. The ad-hoc committee on room 352 needs to meet. Rodolfo will initiate the meeting.

Dr. Ferrier and Dr. Snow approved the proposal for faculty status for librarians.

The provost's budget will pay for two, possibly three, senators to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting.

Action item: The president of the senate will submit a formal request for a budget during the university's budget planning process.

Committee reports

Faculty evaluation of department chairs (Kevin Kendrick)

Kevin discussed his conversation with Dr. Snow about department chair evaluations. There is no process in place yet. Dr. Snow suggested including a department chair and a school head on the senate committee in order to develop meaningful evaluation criteria. There was concern in bringing administration into Faculty Senate committees. There was a question as to whether, in fact, it is the administration's responsibility to create this policy, not the Faculty Senate's.

Options are: Faculty Senate creates the procedure, the senate provides suggestions on policies from other institutions, or the senate recommends that administration create a procedure that faculty vote on. A motion was made to recommend that administration create a policy for evaluation by faculty of school heads and department chairs (and program coordinators?) and that Faculty Senate assist in creating the policy. Motion passed. A motion was made that the Senate Vice President serve on the committee tasked with creating the policy. Motion passed.

New Business

There was discussion about senator attendance at meetings. Both missing more than two consecutive meetings and the idea of sending a proxy were discussed.

Action item: Executive Committee to prepare language on replacement procedures for senators who leave and attendance for all senators to review.

Pat Holmes was thanked for her service to the University and valuable input on the senate.

A motion was made to form an election committee to create an election to replace Pat Holmes. Motion carried.

Action item: Create an election committee and conduct an election for a School of Education & Kinesiology senator.

Old Business

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting will be attended by Brian and Mary.

Action item: Brian and Mary will provide a report from the meeting at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty handbook update: Holly & Bill inserted A&M System and TAMU-SA policy language.

Action item: Megan will send an e-copy of the faculty handbook to all senators. Senators should plan to read it over the break so that assignments for assistance with the handbook can be made at the February meeting.

Announcements

No new funding was provided this fiscal year for library resources. Money for one-time purchases (books and e-books) was carried forward from last year. There is no money for new databases or e-journals that are continuing expenditures. These expenditures also go up each year as our enrollment increases, along with inflation, so we may have to cut next year if additional funding is not provided. Stefanie explained that the administration decided to roll all student fees into one fee, so there is no longer a dedicated library fee tied to student credit hours as there has been in the past. Senators expressed their concern about the growth of the university and the increased expectation of faculty to conduct research. This impacts the need for library resources to support both.

Action item: Faculty Senate will write a letter of support for library funding. Brian will outline the letter for comment.

Action item: Faculty Senate will invite the administration to attend a senate meeting and outline the university budget process.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:24 by Megan. The next general meeting will be 11-12:30 on Friday, February 1, 2013, Main Campus room 204/207.

Minutes submitted by: Stefanie Wittenbach