

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 7, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Room: STEM 161

In Attendance: Matthew Mangum, Rodolfo Valdez, Rebekah Piper, Claire Nolasco, Joseph Simpson, Jimena Guerra, Gilbert Barrera, Corina Ross, Megan Wise de Valdez, Young Rae Kim, Jeremy Zuni Caroline O'Quinn, Thomas Greene, Scott Gage, Amy Porter, James Finley, Keming Li, Marina Navarez, Robert Vinaja, Sukho Lee, Sara Weaver, Douglas Carter, Mike O'Brien, Andrew Sanders, Kevin Barton, Jack Ayers, Katherine Bridgeman, Cynthia Teniente Matson, Scott Peters

Meeting called to order: 11:30 AM

Approval of Minutes:

Rodolfo Valdez brought up the item of bicycles on campus which was not listed on minutes. Claire Nolasco confirmed that we will address that item.

Thomas Greene motioned to Approve the minutes
Joseph Simpson seconded that motion

Administrative Updates:

Dr. O'Brien: Detailed academic updates including searches:

- Tim Briton will start October 1 as Library Director
- Dean of Education search is underway and being lead by Drs. Hurley and Mudge
- Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies – After discussing with faculty, he affirmed that there is a need for a person who can support faculty in the area of research and scholarship. He also explained that there is no timetable for search and that we will hire when we can find the right person.
- Holly Verhasselt's last day is September 21 and Jane Mims will assume a portion of her duties along with Ashely Spicer Reynolds who will assist with the other portion of her duties.
- Jane Mims position as Director of Institutional Research will be posted.
- Position has been approved for a grant writer and will be actively sought.

Dr. O'Brien discussed the issue regarding the Tenure and Promotion guidelines. One issue raised in his discussion with Claire Nolasco was the Course Evaluation Table which required faculty to manually calculate grade average and SRI average for classes taught while in Texas A&M-San Antonio. Dr. O'Brien explained that the Course Evaluation Table was not going to be

implemented until the Faculty Senate has had a chance to review the policies. He also agreed that faculty applying for tenure and promotion this year would not have to calculate past data in order to submit their packet for Tenure and Promotion.

Dr. Matson: Detailed topics addressed during Fall Convocation:

- Academic standards
- Admission standards
- Athletics: Dr. O'Brien is chairing the committee on the recommendation of athletics. The committee is convening next week (second week of September) and Amy Porter is a member of the Committee on Athletics.
- SACS Reaffirmation Process: Preliminary visit during first week of December. The official reaffirmation review will occur during second or third week of March.
- David Perryman has been spearheading a history project to capture the history of Texas A&M-San Antonio. May 2019 will turn 10 years old as a stand-alone university. There will be a history wall in the Central Academic Building, a Founders Wall in Madla, and a book will be coming out this academic year.
- Design of new academic building is on the drawing board – to include 64 faculty offices.

Old Business:

Scott Gage revisited the topic of guidelines for Career Advancement and Paths to Promotion for Non-Tenure Track Faculty. Claire Nolasco brought this topic to Dr. O'Brien and he is in support of the faculty drafting and presenting the guidelines to faculty senate. Scott Gage presented a summary of the guidelines of "Academic Professional Track" positions for faculty senate to consider as this topic will be addressed. Joseph Simpson suggested that the numbers of lecturers and adjuncts be presented to determine how this affects the faculty and institution. Scott Gage is approaching this to bring some clarity to the institution policies for

Joseph Simpson motions to establish a committee for Academic Professional Track Positions and Paths to Promotion and nominated Scott Gage to chair the committee.
Douglas Carter Seconded the motion.

Robert Vinaja Called for a vote – all senators approved

The committee will consist of:

Lecturer

Adjunct

Research Faculty

Representative from Each College

New Business:

Faculty Senate Committee Elections: (nominations and voting on the following positions)

- University Library Committee – Dr. James Finley
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee/Chair (2 years) – Dr. Alan Daniel
- Graduate Council (2 years) – Y. R. Kim, G. Barerra
- Faculty Development and Research Committee (1 year) – J. Guerra, A. Sanders, K. Barton
- Compliance and Grievance (1 senator from each unit with 1 year term) – M. Mangum (COB), C. O’Quinn (COE), J. Simpson (COA&S), J. Zuni (Library)
- Election Committee (1 senator from each unit) – J. Finley (COA&S), S. Peters (COE), D. Carter (COB), M. Navarez (Library)
- Writing across the Curriculum (2 senators, 1 chair for 2 year term) – R. Piper (Chair), T. Greene

Tenure and Promotion Guidelines:

Claire Nolasco detailed the timeline of the Tenure and Promotion guidelines and timeline:
 May 29, 2018: Claire received copy of documents from Provost O’Brien requesting Faculty Senate Feedback.

August 20, 2018: During College of Arts& Sciences faculty meeting there was discussion regarding the new format of T&P packet.

August 21, 2018: Letter drafted and sent by Executive Board to Provost O’Brien asking for the Course Evaluation Table to not go into effect until the Faculty Senate has had a chance to review and provide feedback.

August 24, 2018: Discussion forum opened for all faculty on Faculty Town Square to solicit feedback.

(See attached report summarizing comments on Faculty Town Square)

- Joseph Simpson received a comment regarding the process of the notification process asked for the guidelines to reflect clear expectations (written, sealed, and available for faculty member).
- Caroline O’Quinn asked question regarding service, specifically if letters were necessary. Suggested it be more clear regarding the format.
- Alan Daniels suggested there be language that is clear across all colleges that all faculty refers to as policy.

Joseph Simpson motioned to move to next item of business/Sukho Lee seconded the motion.

Spousal Hire Policy:

Andrew Sanders requested information regarding policy for spousal hire and would like to revisit in future Faculty Senate meeting.

Claire Nolasco detailed the A&M System policy and requested Andrew to present specific guidelines for approval and discussion in the October meeting.

This agenda item will continue to be an item that faculty senate will address moving forward.

Recommendations of Distinguished Faculty:

Rebekah Piper provided a report regarding the process and selection of the Distinguished Faculty Awards. The report will be provided for Provost O'Brien and the committee will discuss the process for the creation of rubric/standards.

(See attached report summarizing recommendations of the Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee)

Remaining agenda items tabled for next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:53 PM