

Faculty Senate Meeting
September 2, 2022
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MINUTES

Vista Room

Attendance

- **In-Person:** Leonard Love, Megan Wise de Valdez, Karen Kohler, James Finley, Thomas Beaumont, Daniel Delgado, Mohamed Abdelrahman, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Sarah Katz, Amanda Lindner, Matthew Mangum, Bob Shelton, Jeffrey Sattler (for Kenneth Sweet), Lizbett Tinoco, Keming Li, Zechun Cao, Eunhye Kwon, Sabina de Vries, Kimberly Grotewold, Elizabeth Hasseler, Katherine Skrabanek, Graham Hotard, Yan Song, Heather Olague, Sonya Eddy, Elizabeth Leyva
- **Via Zoom:** Robert Alonzo, Amy Porter, Chin-Yen Liu, Vincent Creazzo, Jacob Hardy, Tara Korzekwa, Sarah Pollock, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Blake Erickson, Scott Gage, Catherine O'Brien, Miko Fei, Deirdre McDonald, Leslie Stapleton, Mike Spohn, Elena Foulis, John Scott, Armando Tejada, Gilbert Barrera, Marianne Phillips, Jeremy Zuni, Marshall Naylor, Marcus Palmer, Dawn Weatherford, Paula Garcia, Andrew Roberts, Brandon Earwood, Sajjadur Rahman, Jimena Guerra, Henrietta Munoz, Bryan Bayles.

Meeting called to order at 11:33

Approval of Minutes

Leonard Love called to vote on approval of the minutes with edits to page 3.

- Yes: 19
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

Administrative Update

a. Provost Abdelrahman

- The University has begun using A&M System services for pre- and post-award work. Acknowledged collaboration between Business Affairs and Academic Affairs.
- Will host regular office hours and invites faculty to attend. Hopes to facilitate exchange of information. Will also be starting a lunch with the provost program, where a few faculty join at a time. It will likely take a few years to get through the whole faculty.
- Academic Affairs is working with Student Success and Engagement to try to reduce the number of students who are not making satisfactory academic progress. Looking at ways to better support students, including midterm grades, communicating with students in the first few weeks of the semester, and culturally informed pathways to success.
- Attended the Board of Regents' meeting and is connecting with provosts from System schools in South Texas.

- Has been meeting with the Senate Executive Committee and is looking forward to working with the Senate to work on, among other things, the faculty handbook and the assessment of academic administrators. Wants to work with the faculty on course caps, what's defined as low-enrolled, etc. Will have the discussion with the deans and chairs, too.
- Had to find \$250K to support merit funding and is trying to find money for scholarships for international students and to support programs that are attractive to international students. Faculty salary equity is very important
- The community health degree is moving to Life Sciences. Plans to discuss with the EC how long you want the provost to be in the meetings – wants to be here as long as he's welcome while letting the Senate have open discussion.

b. President Matson

- Today is census day. Headcount and Student Credit Hours have increased. The University has reexamined processes for onboarding students and dropping students for non-payment which has produced extraordinary results. This is part of efforts to support first-generation college students, and there is more to do.
- There's been turnover among Procurement staff, something that's happening nationally. College Station is taking over the University's procurement and payroll, which something that they do with some other campuses.
- Is currently preparing for the 88th Congressional Session and will share the final proposal.
- Some calendar functions on the website aren't working properly, namely connecting events entered into JagSync and getting them onto the University calendar. This is being addressed.

Old Business

a. Welcome to past-president Joe Simpson.

b. Faculty Handbook - Leonard Love

- Former Provost Mike O'Brien did not provide guidance to the committee working on Faculty Handbook revisions.
- Provost Abdelrahman has some concerns about the revised handbook and FS needs to continue its work.
- Suggests a standing committee that is responsible for the handbook and the FS constitution and bylaws, reviewing them regularly rather than waiting until something becomes an issue. We can discuss at the next meeting whether this is something we'd like to do.
- Question from Daniel Delgado: any thoughts on the frequency with which this committee would be engaging with this?
 - Senator Love: Thinking they might meet once a semester and bring topics to the senate. Not really sure we need a specific timeline for doing revisions. If this sort of

committee were to exist, it could respond quickly to work that needs to be done. The FS Executive Committee has talked about this but only in broad strokes.

- Dr. Simpson: Would like to help. In effect, we don't have a faculty handbook right now – it's so out of date.
 - President Matson: Administration is working to update its materials, too. Recommends that FS reach out to the Provost's and President's office if assistance is needed.
 - Senator Delgado: Concerned about moving too quickly on changes. Doesn't disagree with the need for revisions but also doesn't think that they should happen every semester, especially with major matters that shouldn't be changed regularly.
 - Senator Love: Agreed. The senate would take up things based on the group's recommendations, so it wouldn't move too quickly.
- c. Assessment of Academic Administrators - Megan Wise de Valdez
- Deans and chairs have seen it and will be sharing their feedback.
- d. Core Curriculum - Megan Wise de Valdez
- Faculty should have heard about the new process if you have core classes in your dept. Departments can now decide what assignment to have and what it means to meet expectations, etc. If you haven't seen this, please follow up with Senator Wise de Valdez or your program's core assessment coordinator.

New Business

- a. Faculty representation on the search committee for the new dean of CoEHD
- Provost Abdelrahman asks for two recommendations for one FS representative. Will consider the make-up of the committee before making the selection so as to ensure diversity. Faculty will be the majority of the committee. Better if it's someone from outside the CoEHD.
 - Lizbett Tinoco and Bob Shelton volunteer.
- b. Committee Assignments – see appendix
- c. Discussion
- Dr. Simpson: Last year a representative from the Student Government Association attended FS meetings. Recommends reaching out. President Love will contact SGA.
 - President. Matson: CFO Kathy Funk-Baxter is going to retire.
 - Senator Love and Thomas Beaumont will be FS representatives on the search committee.
 - President Matson: University Police is on standby to make presentations to classes, departments, regarding campus safety. Please reach out to them for trainings.
 - Senator Love: As discussed at the retreat, we want to work on communication. Plan to be in touch with your departments.
 - Heather Olague: wearing Maroon on Tuesday in honor of Uvalde, please spread the word. Lots of alumni and students from Uvalde at our institution

- Dr. Matson: the University community has at least three students who lost family members in Uvalde.

Motion to adjourn: Matthew Mangum. Second: Keming Lee.

- Yes: 19
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0