

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: October 2, 2018
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 3:47 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Hongmei Jia, Robert Williams (for Curtis Jones), Annette Taggart, Gerard Huber, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephen Starnes, Bilal Abu-Bakr, Juan Araujo, Greg Lubiani, Julia Ballenger, Vipa Bernhardt, Dimitra Smith, Jason Davis, Susan Stewart, Guclu Atinc (for Brandon Randolph-Seng), Yelin Ou, Daniel Kelly, Debra Mahoney, Kurtis Williams, Chad King, Benton Pierce, Vivian Dorsett

Members absent: Lavelle Hendricks, Mark Moreno, Sean Anderson, Yasemin Atinc, Gracie Brownell, Rebecca Worley

| Issue/Topic | Summary of Discussion | Decision/Action |
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| Invited Speakers: Dr. John Humphreys, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs | <p>September 4, 2018 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications</p> <p>The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. President Starnes introduced the first invited speaker, Dr. Humphreys.</p> <p>Dr. Humphreys shared the following information with the faculty senators:</p> <p>Topic: Legislative year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional money will be asked for Environmental Health Outreach and Tuition Revenue Bond request will be made for a new College of Agriculture education facility • If the Legislature enacts performance-based funding, it could be beneficial for A&M-Commerce • Enrollment is down 5%, which would equate to approximately \$4 million over a two year period. A big part of the enrollment decrease is in graduate school enrollment. <p>Topic: Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate needs representation in University's budget decisions. • Senator Taggart and Senator King will work with the Budget committee. <p>Topic: Strategic planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan process will start in the spring | <p>President Starnes stated that the minutes were approved as amended</p> |

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| <p>Dr. Gil Naizer, Faculty Ombuds</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senate should participate on Programs reviews, eliminating obsolete programs and adding new necessary programs. • The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be revived. <p>Topic: Faculty in Residence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no facility space for new faculty at this moment. More faculty will be supported once there are facilities for them. There are currently four faculty in residence. <p>Topic: Faculty Workload Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Humphreys received the report created by the taskforce led by Dean Kuracina. It will go to Academic Deans on October 9th for review. They will prioritize and develop a plan in stages. <p>Topic: Evaluation for department chairs and deans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Humphreys is interested in it. They tested administrator evaluations in Business doing a 360 survey. If the Senate develops a plan/survey he will support it. <p>Topic: Adjustments for professional track faculty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be discussed in the next Executive Committee meeting. Provost Humphreys will share later in the semester compression issues for tenure-track faculty. • There will not be salary increases for all faculty. There are some requests that have been approved and others rejected. Faculty need chair of the department and dean support for adjustments. <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator King asked why there is a request for a multimillion dollar facility for the smallest College in the University when in the last session of the state legislature there was a request for a new library. Dr. Humphreys answered that the Agriculture facility will be transformative for the University and will have a bigger impact compared to the library. Senator King asked that in a performance-based funding scenario, will professors be pressured to pass students. Dr. Humphreys answered that professors should not feel pressured to pass students that are not successfully completing the course. Senator King asked about the reorganization of the Provost office; the Provost will not replace Dr. Gibson's position (Associate Provost). However with a new president organization can change. <p>Dr. Naizer shared the following information with the faculty senators:</p> <p>Topic: Ombuds office</p> | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Naizer wants to raise awareness about his role as a faculty ombuds. He helps faculty members to explore issues, concerns and conflicts; provide information and referrals to other University resources; and he helps resolve matters at the earliest and most informal level. His work is independent, impartial, informal and confidential. The office is housed under the Compliance Office but it should be an independent office that reports to the President. | |
| Dr. Thomas Newsom, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students | <p>Dr. Newsom shared the following information with the faculty senators:</p> <p>Topic: Campus Life and Student Development organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Newsom explained the structure and organization of his division. They have been intensely recruiting staff. Their main challenge is staffing due to high turnover. They will keep working with camps and conferences making an effort to not interfere with the fall semester. They do not have an advisory committee but will put one together. | |
| Communications | <p>President Starnes shared the following information with the senators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Rudin requested a meeting with the Senate Executive Committee in September but we could not find a common time where Dr. Rudin and the majority of the EC members could attend. The SEC will meet with Dr. Rudin at our next meeting, October 16. 2. At the request of the Advancement Office, the scholarship process will be handled different from previous years. In keeping with donors' requests, the Office of Advancement will provide the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships with the criteria that will be used to select recipients. Scholarship committees will no longer adjust the criteria to include essays, GPA, etc. to filter down the applicant pool. Committee members will receive a copy of the department criteria that has been provided by Advancement to include with departmental records. This change will ensure students are able to apply and committees will be able to have access to a larger applicant pool. 3. Scholarship portal opened on October 1, 2018. Awarding forms are due on December 3, 2018. Awardees will be | |

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| | notified starting December 4, 2018 with a 14-day window to accept the award. | |
| Committee Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Life: nothing to report • Academic Practice: nothing to report • Admission and Retention: Rebecca Tuerk, SDRS Director has been invited to the November meeting. • Curriculum: nothing to report • Budget: nothing to report • Faculty Senate Awards: Senator Hendricks had to step down for personal reasons, Senator Abu-Bakr will chair the committee • Organization of the Senate: Senator Anderson sent some changes in the constitution to be reviewed by the Budget committee. • Scheduling and Facilities: Senator Stewart will chair the committee | |
| Unfinished Business | Piper award nominations sought. | |
| New Business | <p>Senators are encouraged to visit the Senate's website – if you do not have a picture, please send Senator Taggart a picture or direct her to a website to obtain the picture.</p> <p>There is a retirement reception scheduled for Professor R. N. Singh November 27, 2018, 3-5pm, in the Alumni Center. The Faculty Senate has been requested to have a representative speak at the event and to present Professor Singh with something to acknowledge his many years of service to the Senate.</p> <p>Senator King shared that there are contractors parking in faculty areas and questioned whether contractors are covered in the parking policy of the University.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.</p> | |