

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: October 4, 2016
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 3:50 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Jones, Taggart, Huber, Slovak, Starnes, Sennette, Nippani, Kemp Graham (for Ballenger), Mitchell, Smith, Davis, Anderson, Ballotti, Taneja, Ou, Kelly, Li (for Williams), King (President), Pierce, May, Hurley (for Sun), Worley
 Members absent: Tanik, Yan, Carr

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	September 2016 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications	
Guest Speaker Dr. Julie McElhany, Director, Center for Faculty Excellence & Innovation	<p>Dr. McElhany provided an overview of the faculty ePortfolio program for submission of tenure & promotion and post-tenure review documentation. Representative examples of ePortfolios of faculty who are currently under tenure review were presented to the Senate in order to illustrate the submission process and to illustrate what the final ePortfolios looked like.</p> <p>ePortfolio submission is currently only being utilized for a select number of faculty going through the tenure review process in order to streamline its use by all faculty. It is anticipated that ePortfolios will eventually be utilized for post-tenure review as well.</p>	
Communications	<p>Senator Starnes attended the most recent UEC meeting for President King. Senator Starnes summarized the topics discussed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quality Improvement Initiatives and Awards was discussed. Since Professor Mildred Golden Pryor will present this to the Senate next month, Senator Starnes did not summarize the discussion. • A possibility of the Student Government Association working to raise the athletic fee was discussed. A&M-Commerce has the second lowest athletic fees in the A&M-System. The current fee is \$10.99 / sch. On the high end is West Texas A&M, whose fee is \$32.00 / sch. Raising A&M-Commerce's fee to \$20.00 / sch (which would position A&M-Commerce in the middle of the System) would generate about \$2.5 million dollars. This 	

	<p>would allow the University to spend fewer funds from designated tuition on athletics and apply the funding to academic programs instead. President Keck expressed a desire to hire more faculty since currently there are too many faculty teaching too many students. The process to do this is complicated since it would require approval from the Board of Regents and it could only be done with a student referendum. The impact to future students would be approximately \$150 / student per semester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAC will be expanded to include all Associate VP and the Athletic Director for increased shared governance. • The University is hopeful that the state legislature will restore the 4% budget reduction, which amounts to \$310,178 in funding. • The University is working to obtain funding for the BS in Electrical Engineering program (\$1,008,000 funding is requested). • The University is working to obtain funding for the Rural Mental Health Research and Outreach Center (\$2,633,000 funding is requested). • Capital projects include the nursing building and the P-3 residence hall. • A&M-Commerce has taught classes at the Rockwall center for 5 years but has had little growth in student population at the center. Thus, as of December 17, 2017 A&M-Commerce will no longer offer courses in Rockwall. The university will instead expand its efforts at Collin College in Frisco at the Preston Ridge campus. The model used will be similar to the Corsicana campus. • Dr. Cornell West's speech was advertised. • MANE event (October 15) was advertised. • The Athletic Director discussed the seven personal fouls committed during the most recent football game. He apologized to the campus community and indicated that the problem had been addressed with the football team and players involved. • The October 8 football game, which is scheduled to be televised, was advertised with the Athletic Director encouraging high attendance at the event. 	
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<p>Committee Reports:</p>	<p>Academic Life: the first meeting of the semester was October 1st.</p> <p>Academic Practices: Professor Kemp Graham summarized the committee’s evaluation of the proposed faculty workload policy, which is currently under review by Deans Council. The committee specifically looked for equity in departments between course size and service and the majority of the committee found that the proposed policy addressed these concerns adequately. One committee member did not endorse the proposal. The lack of stability in administration and concern regarding trust in equitable distribution of sch amongst faculty in any one department were expressed. Department Heads would have to publish/report sch generated by all faculty members, which would help alleviate concerns regarding equitable distribution of sch amongst faculty. A motion was made to accept, reject or table the committee’s recommendation to accept the proposed faculty workload policy with two amendments. 18 Senators accepted the committee’s recommendation, one Senator was opposed and two Senators abstained. The amendments were to change section 2.33 (720 sch should be 750 sch). Section 4.11-4.13 should be harmonized with section 4.311-4.317 (section 4.1 is an accurate starting point to harmonize the sections).</p> <p>Admission and Retention of Students: currently looking for committee members and determining topics to address. One concern is the communication between faculty and administration regarding admission criteria – faculty should be more involved in setting admissions guidelines.</p> <p>Curriculum committee: A concern was expressed that there was only a couple of days notice to submit curriculum changes; there should have been at least a two week window to make changes. A change to the process was proposed whereby faculty could enter changes into the system at any time throughout the year but the changes only be acted upon during the two week window when curriculum changes are called for – this would ease the burden of those responsible for making curriculum changes.</p>	<p>Motion by ??? seconded by ???</p>
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	<p>Awards committee: two nominations were received for the Minnie Stevens Piper award. A suggestion was made that the ePortfolio system also be used for submitting documentation for faculty awards.</p> <p>Organization of the Senate: Committee members are needed. The Chair of the Committee, Sean Anderson, proposed that the committee only be constituted by Senate members since they are the faculty most familiar with Senate procedures.</p> <p>All Senate committees, according to the by-laws, are supposed to be composed of seven committee members. A suggestion was made to change the Senate by-laws such that committees only be composed of five members – one faculty member from each College and School. Further, does the Organization of the Senate committee need 5-7 committee members or would 2-4 committee members be sufficient? Does the Budget committee need more than one member since the Budget committee work primarily (or only) consists of serving on the BRDC.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are three finalists for the new Learning Management System. Senator Anderson updated the Senate on the current status of the selection process. The committee will meet the week of October 3-7 to discuss the vendors and make a decision on which product will be selected. Two of the products address accessibility issues better than one of the products. The three finalists are Brightspace, Blackboard, and Instructure. 2. President King updated the Senate on the current status of the proposed faculty workload policy. This issue has been discussed in the Senate for multiple sequential years with no progress on the issue being made at the administrative level. The most recent proposal (which came from last year’s taskforce appointed by Dr. Benavides) was rejected or tabled by Deans Council recently. President Keck and Interim-Provost Humphreys will be invited to upcoming Senate meetings where the topic will be addressed again. 	
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President King will, via e-mail, solicit input on the proposed new program ??? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President King will meet with Interim-Provost Humphreys regarding Professional Track Faculty procedures. Pamela Webster chairs the committee charged with revising Professional Track Faculty policy. President King will provide an update on the policy changes at the next Senate meeting.• President King lead a discussion regarding restarting the clock when a professor promotes from associate professor to full professor with regards to post-tenure review. It makes little sense to go through the promotion review, then the same year or subsequent year be required to go through a post-tenure review.• A concern was expressed regarding the competency-based program assigning grades of only A & B. If a grade less than an A or B is assigned does a student have to repeat the course? If so, this leads to all students in the program graduating with Honors.• A concern was expressed regarding the numbers of grade reports that faculty are expected to fulfill (TRIO, Athletics, Mid-terms, Fraternities and Sororities etc.). It would be much more efficient to have one reporting form which all entities who are required to conduct grade-checks could utilize.	
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