

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: April 1, 2008; 2:10 p.m.
 Location: Binnion 126
 Adjournment: 3:25 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Starnes, Ballotti, Creider, Hendricks Wickersham, Vinaja, Smith, Rankin, Seminet, Odom, Dorsett, Druhan, West, Schroeder, Openshaw, Singh, Crenshaw, (President), Hammack (Secretary).

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to Approve Minutes	March 4, 2008 minutes approved as distributed.	Moved by LaVelle Hendricks. Seconded. Motion passed.
Communications from Senate President Crenshaw	<p>Senate Constitution: There is a provision in the Senate Constitution that calls for the establishment of a Patent Law Committee. President Crenshaw asked Academic Life to review the need and process for appointing such a committee.</p> <p>Faculty Invitation: Senate is invited to a luncheon Thursday April 3, 2008, to meet Dr Dan Jones, candidate for University President.</p> <p>Status Report: Last year's recommendation about changing annual faculty ratings from the calendar year to the academic year is under consideration by the Deans' Council.</p> <p>Awards Concern: Dr. McFarland indicated a need to identify a pool of qualified faculty members for both the annual Regents and Mayo Awards. Senator Philippe Seminet suggested we ask department heads to poll their faculty for names of potential award recipients.</p>	Assigned to Academic Life Committee.
Committee Reports	<p>Academic Life: This committee is reviewing all A&M-Commerce procedures for employment, tenure & promotion and comparing them to the A&M System rules and policies.</p> <p>Academic Practices: Senator Linda Openshaw reported the Fall mid-semester</p>	

	<p>break survey results. She received 98 responses from faculty members. Preferences for break days are as follows: 34 – Thursday/Friday 29 – Monday/Tuesday 25 – Friday/Monday Write-in results included: 5 – Voted for no break 4 - Wednesday before Thanksgiving</p> <p>Faculty Awards: The committee met and the award recipients will be announced at the annual Faculty Awards Luncheon. This event is scheduled on Tuesday April 15, 2008. It will be held at the MSC in the American Ballroom.</p> <p>Organization of Senate: Senator David Rankin’s committee was asked to revise the Senate By Laws to reflect a new date to hold faculty senate election of officers and update the start time for monthly senate meetings.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>A concern was raised about the procedures used for handling student complaints about faculty members. It seems that occasionally a few university administrators pay attention to random complaints about faculty teaching without providing faculty in question any due process. Are there university procedures and policies that department heads uniformly use in such matters?</p> <p>Senate voted to suspend the rules and hold the annual election of officers for 2008-09 this month.</p> <p>Nominees for the position of President-Elect: Drs. Serge vonDuvillard, RN Singh, and John Smith. The results of the election of officers for next year are as follows: President Elect: R. N. Singh Secretary: Barbara Hammack</p>	<p>Moved by La Velle Hendricks. Seconded. Motion carried.</p>