

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: December 2, 2008
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: Binnion 126
 Adjournment: 3:15 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Harp, Wascovich, Miskevich, Starnes, Ballotti, Creider, Espinoza, Vinaja, Dang, Smith, Seminet, Basham (Odom), Dorsett, White (Druhan), West, Schroeder, Clinton (Sun), Singh (President), Hammack & Openshaw (Secretary)

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Minutes will be sent for approval	November 4, 2008 minutes approved with corrections.	Approved via e-mail by senate members.
Interim Provost Mary Hendrix	<p>Winter mini enrollment for scholarships closed at 5:00 p.m. on December 2. The Performance Incentive money that was funded by the legislature must be spent by August. The scholarships that are offered for both the winter mini and spring semesters have had a positive effect on the university.</p> <p>The university is adopting a drop pass/drop fail system (DP/DF) requiring that all drops must occur by the Friday after the 9th week of class. Faculty can still administratively drop students. When a student drops a class a “Q” will be placed on the transcript showing attempted hours and will affect financial aid.</p> <p>The “Money for Me” Initiative enrollment stimulus package is designed to generate more financial aid. Financial aid drives enrollment. If departments have scholarship money they should try to give it away to increase enrollment.</p>	
President Dan Jones	<p>The Budget Review and Development Committee has been working hard this fall to ensure that money goes to the places where it will do the most good.</p> <p>Bill Franklin is managing the search for a new Vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, Dean Arts & Sciences, and VP Institutional Advancement.</p>	

	<p>Mary Hendrix will assume her new position as Vice President of Student Access and Success in January. Dr. Gary Peer from Tarleton has been appointed to serve as the Interim Provost and VP Academic Affairs. He will begin on January 5, 2009.</p> <p>Coach Connelly has been released from his contract as the football coach.</p> <p>The upcoming legislative session will be busy. Hurricane Ike has taken up lots of the state budget. There are bills for tuition moratorium and re-regulation that seem to have strong backing. Any changes will not affect faculty jobs.</p> <p>The referendum for sports may be sent back to the students in the spring asking for a \$5.00 fee rather than a \$10.00 fee, or it may be dropped until there is a clear plan about how to proceed.</p>	
<p>Communication from Senate President RN Singh</p>	<p>Senate President Singh met with the University President and Provost. They discussed the following issues:</p> <p>Meetings with Provost Hendrix included discussions about the A&M System policies on: 1) tenure, 2) promotion, 3) annual evaluation for merit, and 4) post-tenure review. The changes were sent to all faculty members and have been approved by the regents. Texas A&M University-Commerce must align our procedures with the new policies.</p> <p>The other addition to the policy is a new professional track for faculty with renewable 3-5 year contracts. There will be three ranks within the professional track: assistant, associate and senior ranks. These positions will be for someone not eligible for tenure track. The positions can be for either a research or teaching track. So far no details are given on how promotion will take place on each track. The details must be developed.</p>	

	Senators were encouraged to take this information to their department and discuss possible ramifications for hiring, teaching assignments, and number of classes taught each semester. Is the merit evaluation criterion going to be the same for the non-tenure track faculty?	
Committee Reports	<p>Academic Life Committee held open hearings on November 17 & 18, 1:00 p.m. Faculty Lounge. President Singh indicated that the hearings addressed the new Tenure Implementation Policy, Post-tenure Review Policy, and the Faculty Workload Policy. The faculty members who attended the hearings had concerns about the language in procedures on terminating faculty.</p> <p>Academic Practices Committee: Linda Openshaw gave senators a copy of a survey addressing summer school salaries and scheduling. The survey will be sent to the faculty in January.</p>	
Unfinished Business	None	
New Business	The Senate approved all December graduates that meet the requirements for their respective degrees.	Approved via e-mail by senate members.