

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: September 4, 2018  
 Time: 2:01 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 3:36 p.m.

# Minutes

Members present: Hongmei Jia, Annette Taggart, Gerard Huber, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephen Starnes, Bilal Abu Bakr, Lavelle Hendricks, Juan Araujo, Greg Lubiani, Julia Ballenger, Vipa Bernhardt, Dimitra Smith, Mark Moreno, Jason Davis, Sandy Hayes (for Sean Anderson), Susan Stewart, Yasemin Atinc, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Yelin Ou, Daniel Kelly, Debra Mahoney, Kurtis Williams, Chad King, Benton Pierce, Vivian Dorsett, Rebecca Worley

Members absent: Curtis Jones, Gracie Brownell

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
<b>Invited Speakers:</b>  <b>Lanéé Dunlap,</b> <b>MSIS, MBA,</b> <b>Director of</b> <b>Library</b>	<p>May 1, 2018 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications</p> <p>The meeting opened at 2:02 p.m. President Starnes introduced the first invited speaker, Ms. Dunlap.</p> <p>Ms. Dunlap shared the following information with the faculty senators:</p> <p><b>Topic: Librarians per College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two librarians, Dr. Scott Lancaster, College of Education and Human Services, and Sarah Northam, Head of Research and Instruction Services</li> <li>• In the process of hiring an additional three librarians</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic: Online course resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are planning to enhance the library’s presence in the new D2L by embedding articles and open-education resources</li> <li>• Advise on basis copyright questions</li> <li>• Provide distance learning and video instruction on different platforms (support for students and faculty)</li> </ul>	<p>President Starnes stated that the minutes were approved as amended</p>
	<p><b>Topic: Library activities and resources are becoming more transparent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing library resources via social media and other online materials</li> <li>• Web conferencing (faculty and students) zoom with a librarian</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Topic: Access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computers – 100 +</li> <li>• Library Website</li> <li>• Study rooms - 28</li> <li>• Database - 250+ databases</li> <li>• Journals - The best way to know what journals are available is to simply go to the library’s webpage and look for the list</li> <li>• One-on-one research consultation</li> <li>• Targeted library instruction for classes and projects</li> <li>• Librarian-in-Residence Program</li> <li>• Can add a librarian to our courses (i.e., teacher assistant)</li> <li>• Research and instruction services can be delivered in person, by video, email, chat, text or phone</li> </ul> <p>If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Ms. Dunlap, Director of Libraries, at 903.886.5718 extension 5738</p> <p><b>President Starnes opened the discussion for questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator King asked how the budgets for departments work. Sandy Hayes is the Acquisitions Librarian. She facilitates the purchasing of books and Ms. Dunlap facilitates the purchases of the online books and databases. There is a representative in each department for buying books (i. e., print or online).</li> <li>• Senator Ballenger asked if the new initiatives (i.e., improving library collection and building improvement) were funded. Ms. Dunlap stated that funds have been requested and they are waiting approval.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Invited Speaker Tim Murphy, Chief Information Officer, Center for IT Excellence</b></p>	<p>Mr. Murphy answered questions sent to him from the faculty</p> <p><b>Topic: New computer purchases are very slow. Poor communication between IT and Colleges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Murphy stated that IT’s Level 1 support has improved; however, levels 2 and 3 support need improvement</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic: Replenishment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktops do not necessarily need to be replaced for laptops, the professor can choose</li> <li>• Computers will go through updates as long as they are connected to the internet, no matter the place. Nonstandard computers take additional time</li> <li>• Ordering computers at the end of the year may require more time for IT to process</li> </ul>	

- May request a desktop computer if you do not travel

**Topic: Files in personal computers**

- IT personnel can help to recover files from personal computers

**Topic: Researchers and CITE conflicts**

- According to the researchers present, CITE is actively interfering with research and the ability to maintain and administer the cluster and other computational resources for general use by the TAMUC-community.
- Researchers are faced with issues of control, configuration, setup, and use of these computer resources that are hampering research activities on campus.
- New updates by CITE overwrote system files, which may not be compatible with the existing software.
- Dr. Harter maintains LionHPC with administrator privilege. We are only given a user account.
- Guidelines on how to best deal with these issues when they occur are needed.
- The computing facility was purchased with an \$800,000 grant from the Department of Energy.
- Support services needed for researchers conducting high-performance computing research
- Mr. Murphy addressed the issue of compliance with security standards
- Mr. Murphy reported that passwords have been fixed
- After a long discussion, the researchers present and Mr. Murphy agreed to have a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to establish guidelines and operational procedures for use of the computers by the researchers.
- Senator Ballenger and other senators suggested a better quality of treatment to professors with computer and special grant issues. Perhaps more personnel should be hired to monitor the appropriateness of structures in place such as ticketing and follow-up emails.

**President Starnes opened the discussion for questions**

- Senator King reported that he could not connect to the shared drive. He called IT several times and received a different answer. Mr. Murphy stated that he would check on the issue
- Mr. Murphy mentioned that Windows 7 will be replaced for Windows 10 as the computer is replaced. By 2020, Mr. Murphy plans to get all computers on Windows 10.
- Senator King reported that the links to the bookstore were not working. After many calls to IT, Senator King

	<p>did not get an answer. Mr. Murphy answered that they were able to fix the link. He also stated that he would address this communication problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator King asked how technologies were determined for classrooms. Mr. Murphy answered that there are three standards used to determine replacement.</li> <li>• Mr. Murphy reported that about 100 classrooms' technologies have been updated.</li> <li>• Mr. Murphy reported that if a person has more than one computer, only one computer would be replenished.</li> <li>• Mr. Murphy stated the need for more personnel and better communication.</li> <li>• There is no faculty input or oversight into IT decisions</li> <li>• On a positive note, the IT help staff was praised for their professionalism, responsiveness, and courteous behavior.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Communications</b></p>	<p>President Starnes shared the following information with the senators:</p> <p>President Starnes met with Dr. Rudin August 24, 2018. Dr. Rudin was not available to attend the September Senate meeting since he is out of town. Dr. Rudin expressed that he also wanted to meet with President Starnes before the full Senate. He also said he might want to visit with the Senate EC prior to meeting with the full Senate. President Starnes shared with Dr. Rudin some of the main concerns faculty have. He shared with Dr. Rudin these concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Senate has concern that there is not a consistent policy on campus whereby administrators undergo annual evaluations (of particular concern being department heads, Deans and the Provost). Administrators should be subjected to annual evaluation just as faculty and staff are – Dr. Rudin agreed and supports this initiative.</li> <li>2. The University needs a new faculty workload policy. President Starnes mentioned to Dr. Rudin that President Keck charged a taskforce lead by Dean Kuricina (who was Dept. Head of History and Interim-Dean at the time the taskforce was formed) to propose a new workload policy and to formulate a plan – what is needed – to institute the policy. Dr. Rudin said that he would be speaking with the Provost, Vice Provost for Research &amp; Dean of the Graduate School and others to better understand the situation and what steps the University can start taking to address the situation.</li> </ol>	

	<p>Senator Williams mentioned that the committee met during this summer and concentrated on data collection from department heads to create strategies in a five-year plan to reduce course loads. Senator Ballenger added that the committee will report soon and that they are also focusing on salary equity issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The University has an issue with equity – between genders and between academic rank compared to other universities in the A&amp;M System. President Starnes mentioned to Dr. Rudin that President Keck charged the taskforce lead by Dean Kuricina to investigate the issue and propose solutions. Dr. Rudin will follow-up.</li> <li>4. Faculty governance and the value that administrators place on faculty input is a commonly expressed issue. Examples were given such as the Senate not having voting rights to simple matters such as the number of seats being changed in a class without prior faculty approval, the date of convocation not being announced with sufficient time for faculty to build their syllabi around it, to new program proposals not following the established timeline in procedures.</li> <li>5. Constant turnover in the President, Provost, and Deans offices creating problems with University identity and direction.</li> <li>6. Professional track faculty T&amp;P guidelines provide no real incentive to promote.</li> </ol> <p>From serving on the President search committee, President Starnes noted that the search firm shared the following market place feedback. Positive aspects of A&amp;M-Commerce noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrollment growth of university, the University has an opportunity to leverage the growth of DFW</li> <li>2. The diversity at A&amp;M-Commerce and the city of Commerce</li> <li>3. Improvements in infrastructure</li> <li>4. Athletics</li> <li>5. The A&amp;M System – positive perspective of what it has accomplished.</li> <li>6. Good opportunities exist here</li> </ol> <p>Negative aspects noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seems to be a lot of hiring from within</li> <li>2. The endowment is small for the university’s size and stature</li> </ol>	
--	--	--

	<p>3. Research and scholarship investment needed to maintain Carnegie R2 status. Question of how to improve expenditures and improve resources needed to do so.</p>	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Academic Life:</b> nothing to report</li> <li>• <b>Academic Practice:</b> Senator Ballenger informed the senators that the Academic Practice committee members are continuing to work with Dr. Ricky Dobbs and Mike Smith (Office of Academic Technology) to establish guidelines for monitoring undergraduate student performance in their courses through the new D2L system. The purpose would be to enable class attendance and grade checks. The appropriate faculty and staff member could use the reports generated to put in place interventions to identify students at risk.</li> <li>• <b>Admission and Retention:</b> nothing to report</li> <li>• <b>Curriculum:</b> nothing to report</li> <li>• <b>Budget:</b> nothing to report</li> <li>• <b>Faculty Senate Awards:</b> nothing to report</li> <li>• <b>Organization of the Senate:</b> nothing to report</li> </ul>	
<b>Unfinished Business</b>	No unfinished business	
<b>New Business</b>	<p>President Starnes asked for volunteers to chair committees that are vacant. He distributed a document with descriptions of each committee. President Starnes requested interested people to email him.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.</p>	