

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: November 3rd, 2020
 Time: 2:03 p.m.
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom
 Adjournment: 3:59pm

Minutes

Members present: Tina Lancaster, Hongmei Jia, Bob Williams, Stephen Starnes, Omar Elariss, Lavelle Hendricks, Laura Isbell, Julia Ballenger, Vipa Bernhardt, Joshua Ege, Jason Davis, Sandy Hayes, Thomas Boucher, Brock Johnson, Jennifer Ashcraft, Matt Wood, Robert Rodriguez, Benton Pierce, Gracie Brownell, Andrea Williams, Christian Hempelmann, Zachary Palmer, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Mark Moreno, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Ava Munoz

Members absent: Yasmin Atinc, Dimitra Smith

| Issue/Topic | Summary of Discussion | Decision/Action |
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| <p>Invited Speaker: Dr. John Humphreys, Provost and Vice President of TAMU-C</p> <p>Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Associate Provost for Academic Foundations</p> | <p>October minutes were approved with minor corrections.</p> <p>Dr. Humphreys came to speak about the plan for the Spring Semester. They are not anticipating the same need for phasing people into campus, as they are returning not moving in. The spring will have the same guidelines as the fall about reporting a negative test or having a note to get out of isolation but needing a negative test to return to a face to face class. The majority of both the Senate and the SGA wanted to keep that policy as is from fall to spring. Dr. Humphreys said that there were good arguments on either side and it is tougher than the CDC, but nothing is going to be perfect so they went with the majority. He did say they will accept a negative antigen test 2 days in a row for a negative test.</p> <p>Dr. Dobbs came to speak about the use of Proctorio this semester. The university gave them a \$30,000 budget for this semester and they spoke to the Deans about where it was needed most. So far there have been no complaints about its use. If a class needs to use proctoring that the students have to pay for it must be known at the time of registration. Senator Starnes asked if we are just out the money if the payed for proctoring isn't used. Dr. Humphreys said that it should roll over to be used later but that Dr. Dobbs will check on that. Senator Pierce said that if only one professor in a department is requesting Proctorio it could drive students away from the class because of cost. Dr. Dobbs spoke about using it strategically and making it a department conversation. Dr. Dobbs said to assume that the spring will look like the fall, and he</p> | <p>Motion to approve by Senator B. Williams, Seconded by Senator Hendricks</p> |

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| <p>Karin Thomas, Dissertation & Thesis Specialist; Dr. Jennifer Schroeder, Dean of Graduate School</p> | <p>expressed his gratitude to the faculty for all they do in what has been a tough semester.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas came to speak about the resources available for faculty and students pertaining to dissertation and thesis writing. These are available at www.tamuc.edu/thesis or www.tamuc.edu/dissertation. They are continuing to build writing resources. However, it is always good to check requirements. Dr. Scott Lancaster is a great resource in the library. If there are resources that could be added, please let Karen or Dr. Schroeder know.</p> <p>The dissertation/thesis website has checklists and flowcharts for reviewers and students. A change that has been made is that students used to have to buy 3 copies of their final dissertation document and now only have to purchase 1. Everything is available in ProQuest and if you want to students to buy more just let them know.</p> | |
| <p>Communications</p> | <p>Senator Ballenger met with the President and talked about continuing partnership with districts. The search for a Vice President of Inclusion is ongoing with Nechell Bond as chair of the search committee. An Undergraduate Student certificate of Humility/Cultural Competence is being created. It will be pulled from existing courses. Senator Ballenger will send out the proposed list.</p> | |
| <p>Committee Reports</p> | <p>Academic Life: Senator Starnes is the new head. Academic Practice: Nothing to report Admission and Retention of Students: Nothing to report. Budget: Nothing to report Curriculum: Course and program changes are coming in. Faculty Awards: Nothing to report. Organization of the Senate: Nothing to report. Scheduling and Facilities: Needs a chair</p> | |
| <p>Unfinished Business</p> | <p>Faculty Awards committee recommended Professor Jose Lopez for the Piper Professor award. Senate approved the nomination. Review of faculty awards. There is a review of procedure the awards committee is working on a draft and renaming awards to show diversity. The Barris Award for teaching was increased from 3 to 4 last year. Moved to rename 3 of those awards for; Max Plata, Myrna L. Gilstrap, and Harley Davis. Motion was approved. Most of the revision are a cleaning up of the document and putting things in a consistent order, increases in the award amounts, and the addition of a medallion to named awards. The awards for profession excellence now has a 2-year limit. There was a great deal of discussion about renaming the H. M. Lafferty Distinguished Faculty Award to include Chuck Arize name in its title. There was debate about the precedent that might set in</p> | <p>Moved to accept nomination by Senator Hendricks, seconded by Senator B. Williams</p> <p>Moved to approve new names for 3 of the Barris awards by Senator Hendricks, seconded by Senator B. Williams</p> |

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| | <p>naming an award for current faculty. It was put to a vote, the motion failed with 13 against, 4 in favor and 4 abstentions. Motion was made to accept proposed changes to the awards except the change to the Lafferty award. Motion carried. Senator Brownell is going to look into the procedure for naming awards.</p> | <p>Moved to accept change in Lafferty award by Senator Hendricks, seconded by Senator Moreno. Moved to approve changes by Senator Davis, seconded by Senator Wood.</p> |
| <p>New Business</p> | <p>Senator Hendricks presented an award to Senator Starnes in recognition for service to Faculty Senate. Senator B. Williams asked for people willing to join the Admission and Retention of Students Committee. Senators Wood, Ashcraft, Palmer and Isbell all volunteered. Senator Isbell brought up current hurdles with faculty evaluations. How to do them with no student evaluations from Spring, how to make them equitable and ethical.</p> <p>Senator Ballenger suggested the faculty meet and discuss lower requirements due to these uncertain circumstances. Senator B. Williams stated faculty are all going above and beyond for service and teaching just due to the current circumstances. Senator Davis said that if a faculty member met expectations in these times they exceed expectations. You don't want to see numbers drop when you eventually go up for tenure and/or promotion.</p> <p>Adjourned at 3:59 pm</p> | <p>Moved to adjourn by Senator Ballenger, seconded by Senator Lancaster.</p> |