

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: March 2, 2021
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom
 Adjournment: 4:05 p.m.

Minutes

Julia Ballenger, Hongmei Jia, Robert Williams, Joshua Ege, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephan Starnes, Omar Elariss, Chester Robinson, Kathryn Dixon, Ava Munoz, Jason Davis, Vipa Bernhardt, Dimitra Smith, E. Mark Moreno, Tina Greaves Lancaster, Sandy Hayes, Karen Roggenkamp (for Christian Hempelmann), Yasemin Atinc, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Thomas Boucher, Brock Johnson, Jennifer Ashcraft, Matt Wood, Robert Rodriguez, Benton Pierce, Gracie Brownell, Zachary Palmer, Andrea Williams

Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
<p>The February meeting minutes were approved with some revisions.</p>	
<p>Provost Humphreys attended the senate to inform his decision regarding the proposed "null year" for Assistant Professors on tenure track due to the pandemic. He declined the proposal and stated that the administrators would instead evaluate the faculty case by case.</p> <p>Dr. Kimberly McLeod, Dean of College of Education and Human Services, attended the senate meeting to discuss the Faculty Affiliate Program. The Faculty Affiliate Program provides the colleges with the ability to invite scholars and/or professionally recognized individuals in their respective fields to teach on our campus and/or collaborate on research projects with the TAMUC faculty. Faculty Affiliates will receive a two-year contract, but they will not receive monetary compensation in return. They will be granted the tuition and book store discounts that are offered to full-time TAMUC faculty.</p> <p>Senator Robert Williams, along with other senators, raised concerns about Faculty Affiliates being called "faculty." Senator Wood suggested that the contract be one academic year and be extended when necessary. The Faculty Affiliates Program passed, receiving the majority of the votes from the faculty senators.</p>	

Dr. Yvonne Villanueva- Russel, Dean of College of Innovation and Design, requested to award a Posthumous Bachelor of General Studies degree for Mr. James Abraham. Senator Lancaster moved to approve the request, and Senator Robert Williams seconded it. The senators voted unanimously to award the Posthumous Bachelor of General Studies degree to Mr. James Abraham.

Reports from Committees:

Awards Committee: Senator Brownell mentioned that they are putting together nominations for the Regents Professor Award. The selection of this nominee will be moved from March 19th to March 26th, 2021. The Awards Committee members will study the 'Naming' awards and bring recommendations to the faculty senate.

Academic Life- Senator Robinson reported that they are working on cultural competency. The administration is requesting the faculty senate to investigate the potential interest for cultural competency training on campus. The committee concluded to move forward with this initiative.

Academic Practice- The Provost declined the committee's request for another "null" year for Tenure and Promotion evaluations due to the pandemic. He stated that he was aware that some junior faculty might need another year. However, he preferred to use the regular process and consider requests on a case-by-case basis.

Budget Committee- nothing to report.

Curriculum- nothing to report.

Collin College – We discussed the dismissal of Professors Jones and Heaslip. These two Collin College faculty senators made known faculty members' concerns regarding reopening plans. The Collin College faculty members requested that our faculty senators write a statement of support for their reinstatement. After much discussion, it did not appear to be the senators' will to write a written statement of support for these two Collin College faculty senators.

Senator Ballenger called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator A. Williams made the motion to adjoin the meeting, and Senator Wood accepted the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.