

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: September 7, 2021  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom  
 Adjournment: 3:32 p.m.

**Minutes**

**Present:** Julia Ballenger, Hongmei Jia, Joshua Ege, Tina Greaves Lancaster, Omar Elariss, Samantha Klassen, Kathryn Dixon, Jason Davis, Michael Ponton, Andrew Baker, Sandy Hayes, Christian Hempelmann, Yasemin Atinc, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Thomas Boucher, Bahar Modir, Robert Rodriguez (& Ayal Feinberg), Benton Pierce, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Zachary Palmer, Andrea Williams

**Not present** Robert (Bob) Williams, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephen Starnes, Ava Munoz, Michael Oldham, Brock Johnson, Jane Kosark

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Discussion</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decision/Action</b></p>
<p>The April meeting minutes: Senator Palmer motioned to approve the April minutes, and Senator Davis seconded the motion.</p> <p><b>Guest - Provost Dr. John Humphreys</b></p> <p>Dr. Humphreys encouraged everyone to get the mandatory Covid testing done sooner rather than later and asked that we encourage the students to do the same. So far, Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce has less than 1% positive rate, but there are still many untested people on campus. A question was asked about testing at the satellite campuses. Dr. Humphreys told us testing is being done on a rotating basis.</p> <p>Dr. Humphreys also clarified that while he is stepping down as provost, he will stay in the position until a new one is hired. Therefore, we will not have an interim provost. Dr. Humphreys will remain for as long as it takes to find someone. Dr. Humphreys opened the meeting to questions from the senators.</p> <p>Senator Davis asked about Procedure 12.07.99.R0.01 Full-Time Non-Tenure Track Faculty that on the website says, “Pending Final Approval of the President’s Advisory Council.” Dr. Humphrey is going to check on it. He stated that he was not aware of anything pending approval.</p> <p>President Ballenger then asked how adjunct faculty salary is handled, who is responsible for it, and whether there is any chance of an increase. Dr. Humphreys stated that is not an area he is looking to increase. He said that he does not think we pay our full-time faculty enough, which would be a higher priority. Adjunct</p>	<p>The April minutes were approved.</p>

faculty pay is generally at the discretion of the Deans. A Dean could make an individual case for higher pay, and it does not need approval, but it is a limited resource.

**Reports from Committees:**

**The Scheduling and Facilities:** Everything uploaded and current as of September 7, 2021

**Awards Committee:** Nothing to report

**Academic Life:** Nothing to report

**Academic Practice:** Nothing to Report

**Budget:** Nothing to report

**Curriculum:** Nothing to report

**Organization of the senate:** Nothing to report

**Unfinished Business**

President Ballenger shared that the System Faculty Senate has created a survey to review shared governance, climate for governance – respect, civility, and the role of the faculty senate. President Ballenger asked if we wanted to pursue it.

Academic Practice and Academic Life committee will continue to study cultural competency.

Piper nominations are coming up. The awards committee chair will put out the nomination.

There are several committees that need chairs: Academic Life, Faculty Awards, and Organization of the Senate. President Ballenger spoke about the roles of the committees: Academic Life deals with faculty well-being, tenure and promotion, compensation, and inter-department and college relationships. The Organization of the Senate committee considers proposals related to changes in the constitution or proposals for changes/improvements to bylaws and operations.

Senator Davis spoke about the role of the Awards committee while sharing that it is a large committee, so in addition to overseeing the

awards nomination/awarding process, there is also a fair amount of coordinating the nomination process.

There were no immediate volunteers, so anyone interested is welcome to send President Ballenger an e-mail.

**New Business**

The upcoming meeting with Chancellor Sharp has no set agenda, he wants to listen and address any questions. If you have a conflict and cannot attend, you can e-mail anything you wish to be brought up to President Ballenger.

There were several questions posed about the current Covid-19 plan.

Is there a plan for what happens when we have an outbreak?  
Is there a plan for further testing? How will we know if a student goes back home, is exposed, and brings it back?  
Is there contact tracing?

What is happening if the students are not tested in the mandatory testing? The response was, “it will have them be considered a student “not in good standing” or possible suspension/expulsion.”

Is there potential for universities to be open to lawsuits if someone gets it and it proves fatal?

What are the guidelines if an immediate family member/someone in your household tests positive? The e-mail from President Rudin on August 13, with the Fall 2021 COVID-19 Management and Guidance Plan, includes quarantine protocols.

President Ballenger moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Pierce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.