

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Dec. 2022

Time beginning and ending: 2:05 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Present: Hongmei Jia, Joshua Ege, Christian Hempelmann, Stephen Starnes, Samantha Klassen, Kathryn Dixon, Julia Ballenger, Jason Davis, Mark Moreno (Secretary), Michael Oldham, Tina Lancaster, Sawyer Magnus, Yasemin Atinc (President), Brandon Randolph-Seng, Nikolay Sirakov, Benton Pierce, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Zachary “Zak” Palmer, Thomas Boucher, Andrea Williams, Bahar Modir, Tami Morton, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, James Devlin, MaryJo Dondlinger, Omar El Ariss

Not Present: Emily Newman, Brock Johnson, Ozum Yesiltas, Jane Kosarek

- **The Senate unanimously voted to approve the minutes for Nov. 2, 2022**

1-2.) Committee Reports, Data from Board of Regents Meeting:

(Item#1) Senator Palmer reported that the senate Academic Life and Practice Committee, which he chairs, plans to draft a proposal for university merit increases. To assist, Senator Pierce said he will seek related and comparable data for TAMU system schools, with which he has been familiar.

(Item#2) Senate President Atinc said she was sent related data after the system board of regents meeting regarding enrollment at TAMU-C, which reflects a general decline in enrollments at system schools – TAMUC is third highest in student population. Senator Ballenger referred to the Strategic Enrollment Plan in the works, out of the office of Nechell Bonds, Vice-President of Enrollment Management.

(Senator Sirakov wanted to know differences in pay between appointed versus hired positions [Item #1].) Senator Palmer added that the university Staff Council meets with President Rudin once a week, in contrast to the Faculty Senate, which does not. President Atinc stressed the importance of the Senate, and the necessity of engagement in university-wide initiatives as the Staff Council has recently with Dr. Cephas Archie’s office. Senator Delgado-Acevedo noted that the recent search for a new vice provost did not advance – at issue in earlier senate discussions were the means of advancement for faculty members. Senator Dondlinger said such issues as merit pay and advancement are more appropriate for senators as topics for discussion with the provost. Senator Mercado-Sierra said such discussions should also involve hiring faculty administrators of color, as well as advancement for faculty.

2-3.) Senate Budget Committee, Faculty Appreciation Awards

Senator Ballenger reported that the provost is willing to meet with the senate regarding a senate representative (Dr. Ballenger, as Budget Committee Chair) present during scheduled administrative budget meetings. (There was further discussion on merit pay.) Dr. Delgado-Acevedo recalled that as budget committee chair earlier, she was not allowed to sit in on budget

meetings – Tina Livingston met with the committee, Senator Delgado-Acevedo said. Senators discussed the Senate budget, which Dr. Atinc said was a little over \$7,300, with money for senate awards originating outside this figure. Dr. Atinc quoted a \$4,000 Sodexo figure for food costs at the faculty appreciation awards event (scheduled for April) -- \$4,000. Dr. Atinc and other senators discussed proposed activities, including the speaker during the morning session.

4.) Senate President Atinc announced the open Senate position for Faculty Athletics Director, who would receive a stipend and who senators need to elect. The position requires some travel and attendance at conferences. She sent out a proposal and job description to the provost.

5.) **Final Announcement:** Dr. Atinc announced that Faculty Senate T-shirts would be available in Jan. 2023.

- **The Senate voted unanimously to adjourn.**