

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: April 4, 2017
 Time: 2:05 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 3:41 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Taggart, Huber, Starnes, Sennette, Ballenger, Mitchell, Larkin, Davis, Anderson, Ballotti, Yan, Taneja, Ou, Kelly, Williams, King (President), Pierce, May
 Members absent: Jones, Slovak, Tanik, Lubiani, Smith, Carr, Sun, Worley

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	March 2017 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications	Motedioned by Wilson, seconded by Taggart
<p>Guest Speakers Mr. Noah Nelson, Vice President for Media Relations & Community Engagement</p>	<p>President King recognized the new Senators for the 2017-2018 terms that were in attendance. The new Senators from the Biology department, Marketing and Business Analytics, and Literature and Languages, were introduced.</p> <p>Senator Pierce clarified that Psychology, Counseling & Special Education, if the proposal is approved, will be splitting into a Department of Counseling and a Department of Psychology & Special Education. For the 2017-2018 term, there will thus need to be an additional Senator added to the roster.</p> <p>Mr. Nelson visited the Senate to discuss the dedication ceremony to name the Hall of Languages after David A. Talbot. A summary of Mr. Nelson’s presentation and conversation with the Senate is below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dedication ceremony is April 18, 2017. There will be two separate functions related to the renaming of the Hall of Languages on this day. The Sam Rayburn Speaker Series will be from 11:00 – noon and will feature former Ambassador Andrew Young who will be speaking in Ferguson auditorium. At 2:30 pm the building dedication ceremony will take place. Andrew Young will give a short talk, along with other speakers. This event will be outdoors in front of the Hall of Languages. The Chancellor will be here and the Governor has been invited. • Faculty were asked to encourage their students to attend 	

<p>Ms. Paige Bussell, University Registrar</p>	<p>these events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who knew Dr. Talbot, which includes some of the current faculty and staff, spoke to the person Dr. Talbot was – a father figure to the African American students on campus at the time (which only numbered approximately 200), a calming influence during a difficult time, a caring and supportive faculty member meeting the needs (both inside and outside of the classroom) of those whom with he interacted. <p>Ms. Bussell visited the Senate to discuss the proposals to split the graduate commencement ceremony into two ceremonies. Ms. Bussell also discussed the proposed new website for the schedule of classes. A summary of the presentation and discussion follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new website will contain a variety of search fields to make it easier for students to find courses of interest – individuals will be able to search for classes on different campuses, offered on specific days of the week, specific types of courses (such as Honors, Global), etc. • President King indicated that he would send a link to the website to the Senators. • The website has been presented to Deans Council for approval and feedback. • A handout was provided which summarized the number of ticket allocations for the May 2016, December 2016 and May 2017 graduation ceremonies, which shows a significant increase over the last 1.5 years. • The handout also summarized the two proposals being considered for splitting the ceremony. • The approved proposal will be implemented with the December 2017 commencement. • The floor was opened for Senators to offer feedback and ask questions. 	
<p>Communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faculty Awards luncheon is April 5, 2017 in RSC Conference rooms A&B. • Convocation for Professor Lemanski being named Regents Professor is April 13, 2017. Professor Lemanski will also be recognized at the Faculty Awards luncheon. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new men’s basketball coach, Jaret von Rosenberg, was introduced at the April 3, 2017 UEC meeting. • The new Associate VP for Enrollment Management & Retention, Lee Young, is now on staff. The hiring waiver request was denied. A&M-Commerce will thus pay his salary using local funds until September 1, 2017. Lee has been invited to attend the May Senate meeting. A&M-Commerce is doing many of the things Lee aims to do, but we need to do them better. The position reports to the Provost. • UEC will now meet once a week, every Monday. President Keck requested the change to make UEC more effective. • There is a proposal to change the summer work schedule for staff – some of the proposals include a M-R 7:30-5:30 with Fridays off schedule, or a schedule where the staff would have off Friday afternoons. The poll sent to staff showed mixed results on preference. Considering that summer orientations are on Fridays, none of these proposals may go forward. • The former men’s basketball coach has a new position with the University. He is now employed through the Office of Alumni Relations. His position is a newly created position. It is not clear if there was a search for this position. One of the job duties presumably entails working to establish more alumni chapters – President Keck envisions approximately 200 alumni chapters for A&M-Commerce. • Dr. Dobbs has been invited to attend the May Senate meeting, where he will discuss the new TRAC program, which is centered, on the 1st year experience. President King summarized the different facets of the TRAC program. • The MANE event has changed from its original design, which was to bring students to campus to introduce them to A&M-Commerce. At the recent MANE events, ~60% of the attendees have already been accepted to the University. Should MANE event be redesigned to bring in more students who are not already admitted, as a recruiting tool, or redesigned to involve activities to 	
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	<p>bring more of those admitted to being enrolled (should students be enrolled in classes while they are on campus for MANE event?).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International graduate student enrollment has experienced a significant decline. It is not known yet if this is localized to A&M-Commerce or if it is a national trend – Canadian recruiting of international students seems to be skyrocketing. There is a need to diversify our recruiting strategy. If broken down by programs, some are seeing much greater enrollment declines than others. 	
Committee Reports:	<p>Budget: At the most recent meeting, the issue of merit raises was the main topic. Due to the uncertainty in the upcoming budget, the BRDC proposal regarding merit raises is to handle them in the same manner as has been done in the recent past. If A&M-Commerce is subject to a significant budget reduction this issue will be revisited by BRDC. Merit pay for the coming year could be a one-time payment. If the pool is small, there was a suggestion to give merit pay to staff only – this was suggested because if divided amongst faculty and staff no individual’s merit pay would be of much in dollar amount.</p> <p>Awards: The awards ceremony is April 5. The committee has recommended Professor Mildred Pryor for Regents professor. Improvement of the functioning of the awards committee will include earlier deadlines next year, more heavily advertising the awards nomination process and deadlines, setting up an e-mail account to be utilized for awards only and working to automate the process.</p> <p>Organization of the Senate: Two resolutions will be introduced in New Business.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	None	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four resolutions were acted on as described below. Resolution 1 involved making stylistic changes to the Senate Constitution. All Senators were in favor of the proposed changes. Resolution 2 centered on restructuring the term of office for the President of the Faculty Senate Constitution and modifying other offices. The Senate President’s term will be extended to two years plus a third term a President- 	

	<p>past. After the one year as President-past, the Senate will elect a President-elect to serve during the second year of the current President's term.</p> <p>The floor was opened to discussion of the proposed changes. Concern was expressed that the change could cause fewer Senators to want to serve as President. Conversely, support for the change centered on the potential that this change would allow the President to better accomplish her or his agenda – a one year term is generally not sufficient time to establish working relationships with administration and Senate committees to accomplish major goals.</p> <p>A motion was made to suspend the rules of the Senate in order to consider extending the term of current Senate President King. All Senators were in favor, with President King abstaining from the vote. A motion was made to extend Senator King's term an additional year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution #3 centered on expressing the sense of the Senate that it supports the placement of the Faculty Ombuds within the University Compliance Office. The floor was open to comment on the proposed resolution. President King pointed out that the Provost was considering the compliance office and human resources as potential places to house the Ombuds. President King pointed out the faculty could have a complaint against Human Resources and thus the Compliance office was the most logical choice. The floor was open to discussion of the resolution. This is not a full-time position – it comes with a one-course release. President King expressed that he would push for a two-course release for the position. President King expressed that the Ombuds should be a full professor with no administrative duties. All Senators were in favor of the resolution with President King abstaining from the vote since he sponsored the resolution. • Resolution #4 centered on authorizing the Faculty Senate President and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to review and select the Senate's designees for the Signature Course Review Committee for the 2017-2018 	<p>Motion to accept this change was made by Senator Ballotti, seconded by Senator Davis. President King abstained from the vote all other Senators approved.</p> <p>Motioned by Taggart, seconded by Wilson</p>
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	<p>proposed courses. For Signature Courses in subsequent terms the Senate will at a future meeting decide how it wants to select membership for this committee's work. The Senate will designate five faculty to serve on the committee to review Signature Course proposals. All Senators were in favor of the resolution with President King abstaining from the vote since he sponsored the resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After serving on the Senate for many years, Senator Ballotti has passed the torch. The Senate expressed its appreciation for John's service.• Senator Davis asked for information on the University's Academic Dishonesty policy and how it pertained to copyright issues and plagiarism.• Senator Ballotti was asked how the proposed Signature Course plan (which replaces speech in the core) would impact the faculty members who teach speech. Senator Ballotti was not aware of the proposed changes. The changes will likely mean that there will be fewer sections taught by graduate assistants with faculty maintaining their current load of speech sections to teach since some departments will still require speech for their programs.• It was announced that word was just received that the University will close at noon on April 14 for Good Friday.	
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