

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA – February 2025

Date: 02/04/2025

Senators present: Brandon Randolph-Seng, Tami Morton, Jason Lee Davis, Josephine Durkin, Kelly Featherston, William Kuracina, Stephen Starnes, Yasemin Atinc, Nikolay Sirakov, Mei Jiang, Hongmei Jia, Carlos Bertulani, Maggie Salem, Avril Knox, Jangsup Choi, Rusty Fox

Senators online (5): Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt, Jeanette Vaughan, Carrie Klypchak, Adam Northam, Dongmei Cheng, Jimmy Womack,

Dr. Atinc called the meeting to order at 2:09.

Yasmine moves to approve the December meeting minutes. A correction to be made relates removing a note about the to the summer model/European model. Edit needs to be made to Dr. Ballenger's name. Dr Davis motions and Dr. Randolph-Seng's 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved with corrections.

Scholarship universe: Audrey Weiss, Asst director for scholarships. Scholarship universe (includes online dashboard, use ETAMU credentials) which includes a new portal with changes. Questions were encouraged. Ms. Weiss introduced the names of members of her team, all who are capable of answering questions.

- Deadline will begin the review pool process, at this time Ms. Weiss' team moves the scholarship into the 'review phase.'
- Documents and instructions will be sent to reviewers (all sent via email).
- The new platform has been working well and new committees members should not have issues logging in.
- Instructions within the portal will walk reviewers through the steps in the portal (all secure via SSO). Ms. Weiss walked Senators through the review process and showed faculty what the process will look like from their perspective.
- Ms. Weiss answered questions from Senators.

- Scholarship committee members will receive communication soon and chairs can determine scholarship deadlines as a whole (request from Ms. Weiss Feb 28 or June 1).
- A question was asked about departmental scholarships. Ms. Weiss clarified that this portal system only includes scholarships from endowments (rather than internal).
- The user interface of this new system is expected to be a better experience for students and faculty.
- Deadline Feb 28; Extended deadline May 1, determine by committee (communicate with Ms. Weiss). Scholarships have been open for the students since Dec 1.

Dr. Featherston motioned, Dr. Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to amend the meeting agenda to allow Dr Sirakov to speak about an issue in the Math department. Dr Sirakov shared that the faculty in the math department asked him to voice their concerns:

- Moving departments to different buildings (adequate space may not be available for labs, inefficient for teaching).
- Dr. Sirakov wanted the concepts of lack of accountability, transparency and communication as it relates to building changes for departments documented.
  - Decisions may impact student enrollment and faculty teaching
  - Decisions were made without faculty discussions

Student Success Council Meeting Updates (developed by Dr. Vacca-Hasse). Dr. Atinc and Dr. Jia shared some experiences from recent meetings. Including: 1) Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Judy Sackfield, informed faculty that federal agents may come on campus. Faculty should direct any federal agents to the University Police Department (UPD). Dr. Vacca-Hasse emphasized the faculty's responsibility to both uphold the law and care for students. Dr. Vacca-Hasse shared that we as faculty should follow the law; 2) CARE reports can be submitted by faculty (or others) to assist; and 3) a group is working on developing a student attendance tracking policy.

Dr. Vaughan shared that some student visas (F1) have expired but as long as they are enrolled full time and have a current I20, issues should not occur. She also shared some specific concerns that she sees in the nursing department and recommended that we should be empathetic to our students needs.

Dr. Atinc shared that there are certain regulations related to online and face to face class requirements for international students.

**Follow-up:** Dr. Atinc shared that this information from the Student Success Council should be communicated back to our departments.

Dr. Atinc met with Dr. Zator and Dr. Belpoliti about the Faculty Success Center, they will come to the March meeting to present. They are interested in forming an advisory board (2 volunteers are requested to represent Faculty Senate). Dr. Atinc asked for volunteers from the group, she will share an email that has more description. Dr. Morton shared interest. The time commitment is unclear, and we can wait to hear more details from the in person meeting in March.

Coffee and Pie with President and Provost was on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Atinc reiterated the importance of Faculty Senate and that we need to show our interest by having attendance at these meetings (including faculty awards). During the meeting, comments were made about accountability related to evaluation for VPs. Dr. Starnes shared that faculty workload policy was discussed and Dr. Rudin seemed receptive to discussions (specifically related to documentation and credit for mentoring students).

Dr. Starnes shared that there have been 3 meetings related to the summer business model. The main takeaway from the meetings were: 1) summer course offerings should be built around student needs; 2) Faculty pay should not be the goal of summer course offering; 3) Revenue is used for faculty and professional development for fall and spring. A comment was made about compensation credit for departments related to independent studies. Discussions were had about where adjunct budgets come from and where the money goes (summer compared to fall).

Dr. Atinc is going to Austin to meet with other university members of the Assembly of Faculty Senates and TCFS Meeting between Feb 21<sup>st</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Dr. Kuracina recommended asking about Senate Bill 17.
- Dr. Atinc requested for other topics to be shared with her.

Drs. Atinc and Klypchak are on a committee related to faculty salary adjustments with the Provost. There is a pool of money available related to compensations and there is an outside agency that have conducted a faculty Compensation Study comparing salaries with ETAMU and other universities (about \$500,000). Challenges with the data were shared during the meetings. The consulting firm will come to a Faculty Senate meeting and share results, we may need to call for a special meeting (date change) if the consulting firm cannot meet our regular meeting. Initial funding will go toward bringing up minimum faculty salaries up to average levels, then allocated elsewhere.

Dr. Atinc asked that Senators go back to departments to request questions that can be asked when Faculty Senate host Tina Livingston in March. Dr. Klypchak will send out a google doc with a due date of Feb 21, for faculty to document questions. Senators should request questions and document using the link.

Faculty Awards Day will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> (11:30). Dr. Atinc asked that the dates be shared with your respective departments.

Regents Professor Ceremony- Date will be forthcoming.

Dr. Salem moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:09.