

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: February 7, 2017  
 Time: 2:05 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 4:01 p.m.

# Minutes

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

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	December 2016 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications	Motioned by Anderson, seconded by Davis
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	None	
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senators Lubiani and Larkin were introduced as new Senators. Senator Lubiani is taking Senator Nippani’s place and Senator Larkin joins the Senate to represent the newly created Department of Higher Education &amp; Learning Technologies.</li> <li>• Convocation honoring Professor Larry Lemanski’s distinction as Regent Professor will be April 13, 11 am. Classes are cancelled that day between 11 am – noon.</li> <li>• The Senate awards ceremony will be April 5. The time and place will be announced soon. President Keck will speak at the luncheon.</li> <li>• The Faculty Forum with President Keck will be February 22, 1:30 pm, Traditions room in the RSC. President King provided details on the format of the forum. There may be a second forum this semester, depending on faculty turnout/interest in the first forum. This is a faculty only event – staff will have their own forum.</li> <li>• The meeting with Chancellor Sharp was announced as being a luncheon on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> at noon in BA290. (subsequent to the Feb. Senate meeting, this has been changed to a March 10 afternoon meeting with Senate Executive Committee members only).</li> <li>• President King will attend the Texas Council of Faculty</li> </ul>	

	<p>Senate meeting February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am the new athletic academic center in the field house will be dedicated.</li> <li>• March 10<sup>th</sup> will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas A&amp;M-Commerce as a state institution. The event is being marked as the Century of Lions. Several State of Texas public officials will be at the event. There may be a luncheon at the event – it is not known yet if this will be a public or private luncheon.</li> <li>• The Hall of Languages will be renamed in honor of Dr. Talbot. The date of the dedication ceremony is not known yet.</li> <li>• Dr. Humphreys has been named as permanent Provost. The decision on converting Wyman Williams’ interim position to permanent has not been decided yet.</li> <li>• The search to fill Dr. Hendrix position continues. The position has been modified due to reorganization within the University. Three candidates have been interviewed for what will now be the Associate VP for Student Engagement. The position will oversee academic and staff components. Reporting from the position will be to the Provost – the position is no longer within Student Success and Access. A new A&amp;M-Commerce organization flowchart is forthcoming.</li> <li>• Faculty development leave requests have all been denied for the coming year due to budget cuts.</li> <li>• President King will meet with Tim Murphy February 8, 10 am, to discuss the cost and feasibility of conducting annual Administration evaluation.</li> <li>• President King continues to explore means to compartmentalize student progress reports so that faculty only have to do these 1-2 times a semester whereby reports would go to all parties requesting this information at once rather than faculty filling out the same reports for different entities. Tim Murphy said the technology to manage this can be created – and it should be done to avoid violation of any FERPA rules. Ricky Dobbs has also been a part of these conversations.</li> <li>• The Senate has a meeting with President Keck February 10 where the Governor’s hiring freeze and waivers for</li> </ul>	
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	<p>specific hiring requests will be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President King reviewed current policy, which stipulates that administration is to coordinate approval with the Faculty Senate all rules governing faculty and students. President King has discussed this policy with President Keck to point out the frequent oversight of this policy on campus historically.</li> <li>• President Keck seeks to have conversations across campus to institute several changes to commencement.</li> <li>• President King discussed plans that the University has to go back to using online student evaluations. This is expected to happen with no consultation of the Faculty Senate. President Keck wants to see online evaluations utilized but recognizes solutions are needed to improve student response rates. Online evaluations cost 1/5 the expense of paper evaluations.</li> <li>• Shonda Gibson chairs the committee to develop the online evaluations. President King is on this committee.</li> <li>• President Keck offered advise on the meeting with the Chancellor – namely, to stay on point and to keep the number of points discussed to a very few of the most important.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Reports:</b></p>	<p>Budget: The fall to spring retention rate fell from 86% to 77% comparing 2015-2016 to 2016-2017. A&amp;M-Commerce needs to do a better job of recruiting graduate students from more than 2-3 countries so that we are less subject to visa issues from any one country or student interest from any one country. The 1% reallocation only has to be identified at this point. It may not have to be reallocated – the need to reallocate will depend on state funding.</p> <p>Awards: The committee is receiving nominations, which are due February 10. Senator Ballenger raised concerns regarding who is on the committee and how the award recipients are selected. President King will e-mail out the names of the committee members. President King also reiterated that the nomination process has been described in detail in two e-mails sent to all faculty through the faculty listserv; he indicated that he will send a final third announcement soon.</p>	

	<p>Admission and Retention: will make sure their committee attends the January 12 lecture over Signature Courses in order to offer feedback on its potential use to impact retention.</p> <p>Organization of the Senate: Revisions to the Senate Constitution are needed. Senator Anderson proposed that only members of the Senate should serve on this committee since Senator members know best how the Senate functions.</p>	
<b>Unfinished Business:</b>	<p>President King asked the Senate to send ideals on what a centralized reporting mechanism for student academic progress should look like. What problems exist with the current process? What innovative ideas can we put forward?</p>	
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Keck wants several policy changes regarding commencement. The President can authorize faculty or staff to award a degree to a family member. According to current policy, the President can deny any such requests. President Keck suggests that the policy should be changed so that only faculty can confer a degree and the degree should only be conferred to a spouse or child. A situation occurred recently where someone conferred a degree to a niece in another college than the faculty member. President King opened the floor to discuss of the proposed change. The Senate agreed this was a needed change. A motion was made to accept this changed.</li> </ul> <p>President King discussed with President Keck and brought to the Senate a proposal to have the platform party march down the center aisle, with faculty representatives following the platform party and students following the faculty. President King also proposed that departments and colleges carry a banner to differentiate themselves. Senator Starnes proposed including in the program beside each students name the field in which their degree was obtained. These proposals will go to the A&amp;M-Commerce commencement committee for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President King asked for a motion to utilize Senate funds to support his attendance at the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting.</li> <li>• A&amp;M-Commerce does not currently utilize a consistent/common format to evaluate supervisors on campus. President Keck and Provost Humphreys support</li> </ul>	<p>Motioned by Senator Wilson, passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motioned by Senator Taggart, seconded by Senator Davis.</p>

	<p>the Senate initiative to develop an instrument for administrator annual evaluation. President Keck has indicated that this is done at A&amp;M-International and that we can adopt something similar here. President Keck does not want the results published on the University website (some universities do this such as the Univ. of Michigan but some do not). In developing an evaluation instrument, consideration should be given to cost, frequency and the types of questions to be asked. To start the process an ad-hoc committee needs to be appointed to design the instrument. President King asked Senators to go to their colleagues and come up with a list of faculty members who will participate. One to two faculty from each college and school is needed, with preference being given to senior faculty.</p> <p>President King expressed his reservation to online posting of the results as well since it would not provide context to an outsider.</p> <p>The College of Business conducted administrator evaluation within their college last summer – it would be useful to take into consideration their instrument/process.</p> <p>There could be issues pertaining to anonymity with administrator evaluations in small departments.</p> <p>The Director of Libraries should be included in the evaluation process.</p> <p>President King will chair this committee. President King requests committee member names be sent to him by next week.</p> <p>A motion to support this initiative was made.</p>	<p>Motioned by Senator Anderson, seconded by Senator Sennette.</p>
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