

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: March 1, 2016
 Time: 2:01 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 2:52 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Heslop, Bakhtavoryan (for Jones), Taggart, Huber, Starnes, Tanik, Hammack, Nippani, Graham (for Ballenger), Mitchell, Smith, Davis, Anderson (President), Yan, Taneja, Ou, Kelly, Williams, King, Pierce, May
 Members absent: Slovak, Ballotti, Smithers, Sun, Worley

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	December Senate meeting minutes were approved	Moted by Hammack, seconded by Nippani
Guest Speakers	Mrs. Erica Contreras, Budget Analyst and University liaison with Education Advisory Board, was to discuss the Lion Family Scholarship but her visit was rescheduled for a later meeting.	
Communications	<p>President Anderson summarized several items, including:</p> <p>Communications from Dr. Jones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing and Housing buildings planning sessions are underway. • New programs have been turn in to the THECB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BS Electrical Engineering ○ PhD Business Administration • We've hired a director for the Competency-based program, who was formerly with THECB. • Legislative Budget Board is coming to campus in the next few weeks. • Labor Department ruling on exempt and non-exempt status will impact payroll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PWC Compensation Study coming to an end. Looking to true-up salaries (zones) based on regional data. Goal is to get us where we need to be in terms of payroll. • Dr. Jones is visiting with all departments individually this Spring. The meetings are for faculty to let him know what things need to be addressed. • Regarding remote location Graduate Assistants – are they 	

teachers of record? If not then there's not an issue. If they are then they have to be fully credentialed.

Communications from University Executive Council

- On-campus shuttle service has stopped. A&M-Commerce is still running shuttles to businesses and Pacific Place.
- New request procedure for keys begins March 15. Each department will have one Key Coordinator who will be the only person that can request keys for the department.
- 12,504 students on the 20th class day. 12,290 students is the count to be certified.
- Fall admissions are up 26%.
- State analysis shows that if the last four semesters were our base period that we'd be in good shape – our budget would be increased \$338K as opposed to -\$3.5M from last biennium.
- Strategic Planning Assessment Committee has formed and is meeting. Preliminary data will be available in May and a full report will be available November 1st.
- Randy VanDeven reported that funding numbers are on the rise.
- Last week, the Department of Education performed the first audit of our programs in 20 years.

Communications from Dean Sosa

- Enrollment requirements are going up Fall 2015.
 - ACT from 20 to 21 minimum composite.
 - SAT from 950 to 980 minimum combined.
 - Class Rank from top 25% to top 30% of graduating class.
 - Data from Dr. Dobbs supports these increases.

Communications from the A&M System Faculty Senate Presidents and Speakers

- There will not be any new funding for new buildings in the next session.
- Funding overall, however, should be stable.
- Senate Higher Ed Committee is meeting with the A&M System today.
 - Baccalaureate degrees at community colleges will

	<p>happen. Alamo Colleges are already doing this. Perception is that it's cheaper (faculty with lower credentials).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community colleges have difficulty meeting SACS requirements however. ○ Study on THECB website very plainly states that Texas does not need this type of program. ○ So far the approach is program by program and not the community college as a whole. ○ Political viewpoint: every House district has at least one community college whereas Senate districts have normally one University presence. The initiative is coming from the House and not the Senate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THECB may get power back to have more of a say with what Universities do. • Performance based tuition is still being debated such as a plan where tuition can't be increased until 6 year graduation rates improve – sponsoring Senator is chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and is going to start pushing this before the next session starts to see if support exists to make it happen. <p>Communications from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60x30 Plan – President Anderson will email the Senate a draft resolution concerning the 60x30 Plan for comments. 	
<p>Committee Reports:</p>	<p>Budget committee: President Anderson will e-mail the Senate the funding requests summary for the 1% reallocation.</p> <p>Awards committee: Senator May handed out a document, which summarized the award recipients for the 2015-2016 Senate awards, based on the awards committee recommendations.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revisions to the Faculty Workload Policy are getting close to being done but are not finished. The Department Head Committee has this year to put it together; it will not go into effect until FY 2017. • Intentional student mentoring falls under service, which is not covered by the Faculty Workload Policy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting answer on dropping students for non-payment in online courses. • President Anderson will schedule a meeting with Dr. Benavides to discuss faculty and course evaluations and the scores given to faculty. Also in conversations with Dr. Gibson, Dr. Dobbs, Dr. Harp, and Dr. McElhany regarding this issue. CFEI understands the problem. • A concern remains regarding the feasibility of making material fully accessible for students registering late for a course or self-identifying late in the semester. The Senate requested that President Anderson invite SDRS to a Senate meeting to explain the process by which a student becomes eligible for an accommodation. Is there a formal procedure that faculty must follow to meet an accommodation request (such a procedure could be useful for adjunct instructors). 	
New Business		