

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: May 2, 2017  
 Time: 2:01 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 3:23 p.m.

# Minutes

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

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	April 2017 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications	Motioned by Ballenger, seconded by Taneja
<b>Guest Speakers</b> Dr. John Humphreys, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs	Dr. Humphreys discussed several topics as summarized below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One candidate for the Graduate Dean position removed his name from consideration. The University has made an offer to Dr. Jacob Warren for the position.</li> <li>• The search for a Dean of the College of Business is complete. An offer will be made to the candidate, pending Human Resources approval.</li> <li>• Starting with the fall 2017 semester, student evaluation of courses and faculty will be fully online again. It is too costly to conduct paper versions, which require approximately 30,000 pieces of paper. The University must find a way to address the low participation problem. Dr. Humphreys provided two handouts – one showed what we have been doing and the other showed what is used at Texas A&amp;M-International. The University is looking for consensus going forward regarding what the evaluations should look like. The Provost asked the Senate to discuss what the questions on the evaluations should be. The A&amp;M-System has an RFP for evaluations that could be used system wide.</li> <li>• President King is on a committee tasked with revising course/faculty evaluations. President King asked if we will be expected to go with what the System comes up with or if the committee or find/develop an independent</li> </ul>	

<p>Heidi Wright, Chief Compliance Officer</p>	<p>evaluation metric. Will there be consistency between System schools? Will individual institutions have the option to opt out of the System metric? Will the platform and content be consistent between institutions? Provost Humphreys responded that there will probably be some standard questions but there will probably be the flexibility for some customizable questions. Customizable questions could be used to help with IE assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Provost is open to other ideas – the Senate should weigh in on what the University ultimately chooses to do for evaluations.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Wright visited the Senate to discuss the Faculty Ombuds position.</p> <p>Numerous complaints have been brought forth through the hotline. Dr. Justice was sent for training as an ombuds and to be certified as an ombuds. The ombuds position has been moved under the auspices of Compliance. The ombuds will report to President Keck once a month. Compliance’s role is to support the ombuds with regards to coordination/scheduling. James Vanbebber worked closely with Dr. Justice to develop procedures and in understanding the law. James will continue to work with the ombuds. The ombuds will report trends/solutions monthly. Dr. Keck supports the position and wants it to be successful. They are asking for a 5-year commitment from the new ombuds, whom will have a \$2,500 annual budget. The new ombuds will undergo a 2-year training program to be certified – a commitment to the position is highly sought after. A course release will be assigned to the ombuds. Alicia Currin’s office is helping to furnish the ombud’s office. No one has been identified for the position yet. Faculty are still welcome to use the hotline. It will be up to those in leadership positions to solve problems identified. The obmuds will be evaluated. The position is open to all faculty, not just full professors.</p>	
<p>Wyman Williams, Interim Vice President, Advancement</p>	<p>Mr. Williams visited the Senate to ask for the faculty’s help and feedback regarding helping others understand the relationship between Texas A&amp;M, A&amp;M-Commerce and East Texas State University. He is concerned that there is an identity crisis, which</p>	

	<p>affects the prosperity of the University. A&amp;M-Commerce has been academically and financially independent of any other university since 1889. A deeper understanding is needed by all with regards to how the University is financed. Does this information get to new students at MANE Event, Freshman Success Seminar, etc.? He hopes that the identity of A&amp;M-Commerce and its history will be included in the 1<sup>st</sup> year experience. Other topics mentioned included work to develop more alumni chapters and the work that needs to be done to improve the University’s endowment. The Advancement office has a goal to increase the number of endowed scholarships and professorships. Mr. Williams provided a handout summarizing the donation level needed to establish different professorships and chairs.</p>	
<p><b>Communications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President King provided an update on the process and results of forming the committee to select and evaluate signature courses. None of the Regents Professors contacted wanted to serve on the committee and few full professors responded to the request to serve on the committee. The Faculty Senate appointments to the committee will include Dr. David Brown from Curriculum &amp; Instruction and Dr. Shannon Carter from Literature &amp; Languages. Three more representatives are needed as Senate appointments to the committee.</li> <li>• The Board of Regents must approve the athletic fee referendum. There are four members on the subcommittee who will vote on the issue – if the vote were a 2/2 tie the issue would be postponed to the next meeting. The subcommittee has met, however, and voted 2-1 to approve the referendum.</li> <li>• The inspection and survey of the Presidents house has been completed. An estimate of \$300,000 to bring the residence to code was obtained. At this point, it is not known what will become of the residence.</li> <li>• An event center is needed but funding is not available. It could be located on the property where the President’s house resides.</li> <li>• The scheduling software is ready to be utilized. Training on the software is upcoming.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on fixing the calendar system is ongoing. Work is being done to make it easier to see what is going on each week on campus. The online calendar should get better soon.</li> <li>• VP Advancement candidates are on campus this week. The hiring freeze does not apply since the position is budgeted out of funds the Advancement office raises.</li> <li>• The President met with the SGA and asked what they would like to see change. SGA indicated that they would like to have more opportunities to interact with faculty. Fall 2017 the SGA will have a social event with the Faculty Senate.</li> <li>• Approximately 20 names have been suggested at UEC for the new LMS. One suggestion was to call it myLeo Online, which seems to be the favorite.</li> <li>• Enrollment for 1<sup>st</sup> year students is up significantly. Transfer applications have seen an increase as well. Graduate enrollment, however, is down, particularly with regards to international students. Too much emphasis has been placed on one discipline in the past (such as computer science) and too much emphasis has been given to certain countries. The University needs to diversify from where it recruits students. Many international students cannot verify that they have 6 months of financing to study abroad.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget: No BRCD meetings since the last Senate meeting. At a prior meeting, the BRDC discussed the need to focus on faculty salary inequities between A&amp;M System institutions based on rank.</li> <li>• Awards: the Piper Foundation did not select The Piper award nominee as a recipient.</li> <li>• Curriculum: Has not seen the signature course documentation come through CourseLeaf yet.</li> <li>• Admission and Retention: The committee will meet with Dr. Dobbs and Dr. Lee to discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> year experience.</li> <li>• Organization of the Senate: Will have a new business resolution.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unfinished Business</b></p>	<p>President King was asked to serve on the System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee but respectfully declined the invitation. President King took self-nominations from Senators to serve on the committee in</p>	

	<p>his place. Senators Tim Wilson and Benton Pierce volunteered to serve on the committee. Senator Wilson volunteered first and was thus chosen to be the Faculty Senate representative if the University at large elects him to the committee.</p>	
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Senate by-laws were amended as follows:</li> </ul> <p>Add 3.1.1.1 - The President holds office for two years. After completing the two-year term of office a President serves an additional year as President-past. The term of office as a senator may be extended for one year, if necessary, in order to serve as President-past. During a President’s first year the President-past performs the duties and functions of a President-elect. A new President-elect is elected in accordance with 3.1.3 at the April meeting of a President’s first year.</p> <p>Add 3.1.1.2 – The President in office at the time of acceptance of 3.1.1.1 will hold office for a second year.</p> <p>All Senators were in favor of these two amendments (President King abstained from the vote). The amendment passed.</p> <p>The changes have to go through all steps any policy change would go through. If it does not get approved by the summer deadline, President King cannot serve a second term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion was made to approve the Spring 2017 and Summer 2017 candidates’ graduation. It was agreed to unanimously.</li> <li>• Work will continue on the evaluations for administrators over the summer.</li> </ul>	<p>Motioned by Anderson, seconded by Taggart</p>