

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: October 7, 2014  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 3:40 p.m.

# Minutes

Members present: Heslop, Huber, Arslan, Slovak, Ballenger, Dang, Smith (Kuracina), Davis, Hayes (Anderson), Lamarque, Taneja, Ballotti, Ou, Kelly, Smithers, Davis (Williams), King, Pierce, Wiecko, Starnes (President), Hammack & Openshaw (Secretary).

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
<b>Minutes</b>	September minutes were approved with revisions.	Moved by Senator Sonia Taneja Seconded. Motion passed.
<b>Guest Speakers:</b>  President Dan Jones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fall enrollment based on the census day information shows an increase of 598 students, and a 2.84 percent increase in formula funding. President Jones provided a handout with these figures. He stressed that we have made strides in many areas including the retention of freshmen and sophomore students.</li> <li>2. Enrollment increases have allowed for a 1.17% merit increase that will take place in January. Merit decisions should be meaningful and will place responsibility on administrators to determine who will receive merit raises.</li> <li>3. The President asked the Senate and will ask student government to consider making the campus a smoke, vapor, and tobacco-free environment. He is seeking broad support on this issue.</li> <li>4. As part of summer school financial aid campus housing will be free next summer to all students who qualify.</li> <li>5. Scheduling and use of buildings - after meeting with Deans and department heads last week he is requesting a change in the number of University Studies courses offered at the same time. Ricky Dobbs submitted a report that analyzed current space usage. Our overall space utilization reports are not good and we need to keep classrooms in use throughout the day each day of the week.</li> </ol>	

<p>Provost Adolfo Benavides</p>	<p>6. University Center in Dallas, located at 1910 Pacifica Ave., is having a grand opening on February 6, 2015. There will be a partial transition in spring with full utilization by fall 2015.</p> <p>7. Athletics - the football team is 3 and 0 in conference. Softball field turf is down. October 18 is the first game.</p> <p>1. Academic affairs retreat identified several issues including continued work on the faculty workload policy. The Deans are looking into it and revising it per college. Efforts such as honor's thesis advising, thesis advising and semester credit hours generated are being considered for faculty workload credit. There is a disparity within colleges and departments. Last fall there were 273 reassigned courses and there are 321 total faculty members.</p> <p>2. Student evaluations - Face to face evaluations will be utilized this semester. Going forward, Dr. Benavides seeks to revise student evaluations to include faculty input on what questions should be included in the evaluations.</p> <p>3. Faculty access to university facilities during weekends and times of university closure policy was discussed. Currently, the Deans and department heads can give a list to the president and campus police of names of those who need access to buildings. Dr. Benavides encourages the Senate to solicit faculty input and help draft a revised policy that best suits the University's and faculty's needs. Follow-up with Joe Daun.</p> <p>4. Summer business model. David Scott and Martha Foote are fine tuning a proposal and need a Senate representative to work with them.</p> <p>5. Provost Benavides discussed faculty concerns regarding commencement-faculty should be in a more prominent position during commencement, which he supports. Dr. Benavides will examine changing commencement such that graduate and undergraduate students from the same college can attend the same ceremony.</p>	
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<p>Dr. Lavelle Hendricks, President, Texas Council of Faculty Senates</p>	<p>6. The Provost is reviewing, revising and consolidating procedures on academic dishonesty to close the loop when students have been caught cheating and they withdraw from class before there are any consequences.</p> <p>7. Dr. Clinton retired - the new position will be titled Executive Director for International Studies. The Provost wants to reduce the dependence on the University of Southern Mississippi and offer more programs that are led by our own faculty. The model will probably be 3 weeks or less per class. Dr. Nathan Harness is the Interim Director for Global Programs.</p> <p>Dr. Hendricks gave an update on the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council is working on a resolution to increase state funding for higher education by 25%.</li> <li>2. The Council does not support having guns in classrooms.</li> <li>3. Intellectual property-the Council believes faculty members should own their own materials. If a faculty member leaves an institution they should get paid each time their old university uses their materials.</li> <li>4. Council members are meeting with Dr. Hallmark from the A&amp;M System regarding post-tenure review.</li> <li>5. Dr. Hendricks asked where the money has gone for course and program fees.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Communications</b></p>	<p>President Starnes met with President Jones and reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a Recreation Center referendum to increase student recreation fees to \$150.00 per semester.</li> <li>2. There is a study going on within the A&amp;M system to review compensation in all areas.</li> <li>3. A&amp;M-Commerce should have received the report back by October 1 on system administrative functions that was conducted over the summer. University personnel should learn the details of the report soon.</li> </ol>	

<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<p>University facilities committee is still part of the Senate. John Ballotti is chair.</p> <p>Committee chairs need to let Barbara Hammack know who is on their committee for this year.</p> <p>Sri Nippani is willing to step aside as chair of Academic Life. If someone is willing to chair the committee please let President Starnes know.</p>	
<p><b>Unfinished Business</b></p>	<p>Linda Openshaw reported that she met with Alicia Currin to continue work on the Faculty/Staff Family Tuition Waiver. Alicia is going to look at specific numbers and will meet with Dr. Openshaw again.</p>	
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>All curriculum changes are due October 14.</p> <p>Four Deans are charged with looking at the course approval process.</p> <p>Review University compliance policy procedures for faculty access to university facilities.</p>	