

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: October 6, 2015
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Kyle Lowe – Sergeant/Criminal Investigator, University Police</p>	<p>Kyle Lowe – Sergeant/Criminal Investigator, University Police gave an overview of the Campus Concealed Carry legislation and the University’s taskforce efforts directed at implementing the law on the A&M-Commerce campuses.</p> <p>The points discussed included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The law will take effect August 1, 2016. 2. To have a permit to carry on campus, the individual must be at least 21 years old. 3. Steps required to obtain a permit were discussed. 4. There is a reciprocal agreement between some states (if you are permitted to carry in one state some other states accept the permit to carry). 5. An A&M-Commerce Taskforce has been appointed by Dr. Jones to draft the A&M-Commerce guidelines for how the law will be implemented on campus – for example, what buildings, transportation vehicles, etc. will concealed carry be allowed in. Concealed carry will not be allowed in some places (such as places where K-12 students are in attendance, athletic events, The Children’s Learning Center). 6. Notices will be posted where concealed guns are not allowed. 7. A&M-Commerce cannot prevent campus carry nor generally prohibit campus carry by adopting laws that nullify the law. 8. The Board of Regents will approve or amend the policy that A&M-Commerce puts forth. 9. Every two years, A&M-Commerce must report to the state legislature how campus carry is being implemented on campus. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. A&M-Commerce has 20 certified police officers. 11. There is no increased budget for additional patrols at this point. 12. January 1, 2016 open carry in Texas goes into effect, but not on college campuses. 13. There might be a mandated short course that all faculty and staff have to take regarding the A&M-Commerce policy for implementation of campus carry. Currently however, there are no definite plans for additional training requirements. 14. It is a crime (ranging from a misdemeanor to a felony) if a gun is displayed in a threatening manner. 15. Faculty and staff can request training from UPD regarding what to do if there is an active shooter on campus. 16. Panic buttons can be installed in desired locations (must attend a training session before the panic button can be installed). 17. The issue of religious objection will be considered by the taskforce. 18. Professor John Smith (History department) is the Senate Faculty representative on the taskforce. 	
<p>Rebecca Tuerk, Director, Student Disability Resources & Services</p>	<p>Rebecca Tuerk gave an overview of some of Student Disability Resources & Services initiatives and services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are currently 314 students registered with SDRS. 2. The checklist for exam administration was discussed. 3. The e-college accommodation checklist was discussed. 4. 397 exams were administered fall 2014. 5. The office has 2.5 full-time workers (which includes Rebecca Tuerk). <p>Senator Chad King raised the question whether some of the SDRS forms required to be filled out by faculty could be automated. Rebecca Tuerk is welcome to ideas on what can be done to streamline their processes to ease any additional work burden on faculty.</p>	
<p>Lydia Harkey – Manager, CITE, EIR Accessibility Officer, Communication Training</p>	<p>Lydia Harkey gave an overview of some of CITE/EIR’s initiatives and services, which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their goals / benchmarks were reviewed. 2. In 2013, only 5% of compliance requirements were met. 3. The recent accomplishments of EIR were reviewed. 4. The vision of EIR was reviewed, which includes: 	

<p>Dr. Betty Block - Interim Associate Provost</p>	<p>Assistive teaching labs, technology petting zoo, training, and the procurement process.</p> <p>5. CITE might have resource to help caption instructor videos.</p> <p>Betty Block gave an overview of some of the Provost’s office initiatives to help faculty meet compliance issues as it pertains to accessibility. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Provost’s office will work with faculty to find resources to help faculty with compliance issues in the teaching of their courses. 2. The first priority will be given to courses that are fully online. 2nd priority given to courses that are blended. The 3rd priority will be courses that are enhanced. 3. The Provost office has GA students who can help with compliance issues. 4. CITE will provide resources to help with accessibility issues. <p>The question was raised whether there should be a deadline for students needing accommodations to declare their need for accommodations. A deadline would provide faculty and the university in general sufficient time to manage the accommodations. It requires significant more work for a faculty member to prep a course and then learn of an accommodation just before classes start or after classes start – the faculty member would then have to change previously prepared class material to meet the accommodation.</p>	
<p>Communications</p>	<p>President Anderson summarized several items, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAC has approved spring courses with flex entry courses. 2. Marketing has new positions, including Chief Marketing Officer (using existing funds). Need to upgrade overall marketing of the University. 3. BRDC will start soon. 4. Funding 5. UCD – two of the employees at UCD are now A&M-Commerce employees (for at least the next 60 days). 6. Faculty / Staff ombudsman is being considered again. 7. The retirement of the spirit logo 8. Institutional Advancement – more than \$2 million in gifts in FY15 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Enrollment and Retention – new software to roll out which has great analytics 10. The Athletic Director position has been finalized with Tim McMurray being hired. He will start full time some time next week. 11. 12,613 certified students enrolled at A&M-Commerce for the fall 2015 term plus an additional 400 online out of state students. There are 911 international students representing 40 different countries enrolled. 12. Dr. Jones and Dr. Benavides are currently in Korea. 13. 1040 new graduate students. 721 applications for fall graduation. 14. There is a search under way for the new Dean of the College of Business. The new Dean will ideally be on staff by the start of the Spring 2016 semester. 	
Committee Reports:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The call for Piper Award nominations is coming soon. 	
Unfinished Business:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chad King reported that the A&M-Commerce website now accurately defines Graduate Faculty membership (the website is in line with policy). 2. The status of the grade appeal policy, which was already approved by the Senate, is uncertain and should be looked into. 3. BAAS can graduate with distinction. 4. No corrections / comments to 31.01.08.R1 Faculty Merit Salary Program or Academic Undergraduate Program Review 11.99.99.R0.04 were raised. 	
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speech Communications is now Communication Studies. 2. The course catalog link is hard to find – the new A&M-Commerce website needs some modifications to address issues such as this. 3. A question was raised regarding the PWC report. How can the report be accessed for review by faculty? 4. A question was raised regarding the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate BAAS program. Is there an external review report that can be accessed by faculty? 	