

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: December 6, 2016
 Time: 2:01 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 3:12 p.m.

Minutes

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

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	November 2016 Senate minutes were approved with minor modifications	Motioned by Ballotti, seconded by Nippani
<p>Guest Speaker Dr. Raymond Green, Dean, Honor's College</p> <p>Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, Assistant Dean, Honor's College</p>	<p>Dr. Green and Villanueva-Russell presented information and answered questions regarding the Faculty in Residence program. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program was developed through collaboration with the Director of Residential Living and Learning. • President Keck's vision is for the program to A. help increase communication between faculty and students. B. enhance out of classroom learning, C. positively impact student retention. • For the pilot program, professor Asli Ogunc, Department Head and Associate Professor of Economics and Finance, is the Faculty in Residence. • Professor Ogunc has some structured and non-structured activities with students such as regular morning coffee and donuts in the courtyard at Prairie Crossing and a variety of workshops. • The program is primarily targeted towards first year students. • There are perks utilized to recruit faculty participation in the program such as free rent in student housing, a meal plan, and a course reassignment that is to be utilized for activities with students, a \$1500.00 annual budget for activities. • There will be a January application deadline for fall 2017 positions. • The decision for fall 2017 positions will be made by spring break in order to provide adequate time for faculty to make arrangements. • Spouses, kids and pets are welcomed, but there are space limitations to the housing. • There will be four Faculty in Residence fall 017 (Phase 2 and 3 housing, Whitley, and Prairie Crossing). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positions are for 1-year, with the possibility of extending the position for 3-5 years. • There will be plans to assess the impact of the program. The plans are still being developed. • There are no operational responsibilities for participants. Participants are allowed to stay in the housing over breaks. • Faculty who participate in these programs at other universities are typically young faculty or older faculty, with fewer mid-career faculty. • One formal activity with students per month is required, more is welcome. • The position is open to all disciplines. • There are likely tax liabilities associated with the position, which will be looked into. 	
<p>Communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a search committee in place for Mary Hendrix’s position. Dr. Romero is the chair of the committee. Julia Ballenger is on the committee, representing the Faculty Senate. The committee has met one time. A timeline will be available soon. • There is major reorganization being conducted on campus. University College and the Honor’s College are now under Academic Affairs. • There will be a presentation at the January 12 spring assembly over Signature Courses, which focus on student retention of first year students. Freshman success seminar will be replaced with Signature courses. • The faculty senate will convene a faculty assembly with President Keck twice a semester, starting spring 2017. One assembly will be before spring break and the other after. • President Keck addresses teaching loads at the last University Executive Council (UEC) meeting. There is no funding available which is needed to hire more faculty to reduce loads. If the athletic fee were raised (which would lead to an incremental increase in funds each semester with each incoming freshmen class), these funds would be used to hire new faculty. • March 10, 2017 will be the celebration day for A&M-Commerce becoming a public institution. • At the November 21st UEC meeting, the Student Government Association (SGA) was in attendance to 	

	<p>provide an assessment of University Administration. The SGA reported that administration lacked visibility, engagement with faculty and that they left students in the dark. The assessment was not well received by the UEC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal to do away with classes the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is not feasible (as reported in UEC) because we share a common calendar with other institutions in the area. Administration will look into what other universities do. • Regarding the state budget and legislative funding, A&M-Commerce may face a budget reduction – although our enrollment has grown, it has not grown as much as many other institutions in the state. UT-Austin for instance, may face a budget reduction of \$26 million. A&M-Commerce faces a \$1 million budget reduction. 	
<p>Committee Reports:</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>Curriculum Committee: they have a lot of work to do to clear course and program changes.</p> <p>Academic Life: Needs one committee member from the College of Business</p> <p>Awards committee: The nomination forms for faculty awards were handed out. The deadline to make nominations is February 10, 2017. Senators should solicit nominations from their department faculty as soon as possible in order to provide lead-time for applicants to prepare their application.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business:</p>	<p>1.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be two faculty assemblies with President Keck spring 2017. President King will preside over the assembly. He will solicit questions ahead of time and will ask those questions for faculty who do not want to ask the question himself/herself and to ask questions for faculty who cannot be in attendance. There will also be an open microphone for faculty to ask questions. No senator objected to proceeding with the forums in this manner. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Keck encourages the Faculty Senate to come up with a method to evaluate the President and Provost. There was then a Senate debate regarding what other administrators should be evaluated and what should be included in the evaluation metric. The College of Business evaluates their Dean – we could use a similar method of evaluation for other administrators. Should the evaluations be made publically available? It was pointed out that A&M-International does this already and that we should request them to share their method for adaptation here. The Senate agreed that the President, Provost, Dean of the four College and School of Ag director and department heads should be evaluated. Questions on the evaluation will need to be vetted by the compliance office. The work to create the draft evaluation metric was assigned to the Academic Practices committee of the Senate. • The motion to approve fall 2016 graduates passed without objection. 	<p>Motioned by Senator Taggart, seconded by Senator Smith.</p>
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