

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: February 5, 2008
 Time: 2:08 p.m.
 Location: Binnion 126
 Adjournment: 2:43 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Starnes, Ballotti, Hendricks, Wickersham, Vinaja, von Duvillard, Smith, Rankin, Jacobs (Seminet), Odom, Dorsett, West, Herndon, Openshaw, Singh, Crenshaw (President), Hammack (Secretary).

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to Approve Minutes	December 4, 2007 minutes as distributed.	Moved by Serge vonDuvillard. Seconded. Motion passed.
Communications from Senate President Crenshaw	<p>President Crenshaw reported the system attorney ruling on the addition of sexual orientation to the wording of our university anti-discrimination policy. The A&M system anti-discrimination policy reflects current federal and state guidelines. Only changes made at the federal or state level would influence changes being made to the A&M system policy. University policy must be in compliance with system policy.</p> <p>The Senate recommended tenure and promotion guidelines will be discussed at the next Dean's Retreat, February 12.</p> <p>Changing the date for annual evaluation of faculty from December to May is still pending. IDEA evaluations are scheduled for the week of April 21 – May 2.</p> <p>Next year's budget will include 5% merit raises for faculty.</p> <p>The fall early intervention of Freshmen at Risk initiative found an 87% return rate for spring, 2008. No student with a 0.0 gpa from fall semester returned this spring.</p>	

<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Academic Practices: Senator Openshaw handed out responses to the Class Scheduling Survey. Over 100 surveys were returned. 45% of the respondents indicated a preference for a two day a week schedule. However, 65% of the respondents would like to see a different schedule for two days a week than the one proposed (M-R & T-F with no classes on Wednesdays).</p> <p>This committee will survey faculty for interest in establishing a mid-October fall break for the university.</p> <p>Awards: Senator vonDuvillard reported the call for nominations for Faculty awards has been sent. Those nominated will receive a letter outlining portfolio submission criteria. Portfolio materials will be limited this year and should be submitted online.</p> <p>University Facilities & Scheduling: Senator Ballotti's announced that his committee has been assigned the responsibility for the faculty lounge and its operation. The Faculty Senate graduate assistant will be in charge of event scheduling for this facility.</p> <p>Dr. Ballotti is still accepting information about parking problems on campus.</p>	
--------------------------	---	--