

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: May 1, 2007  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290 Board Room  
 Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.

# Minutes

Members present: Crenshaw, Huber, Miskevich, Jang, Ballotti, Creider, Abbassi, Copeland (Wickersham), Vinaja, Smith, Seminet, Odom, Dorsett, Witwer, West, Lenchner, Openshaw, Singh (President), Hammack (Secretary)

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to Approve Minutes	April 3, 2007 approved as distributed.	Moved by David Crenshaw. Seconded. Motion passed.
Guest Speakers:  President Keith McFarland  Provost Frank Ashley  Dr. Mary Hendrix	President McFarland wished Dr Frank Ashley success as the new Vice Chancellor in the Texas A&M system.  General announcements: 1. 5% merit pool for all faculty members next year regardless of fall enrollment figures. 2. Admissions criteria at TAMU-Commerce will adhere to published standards beginning Fall, 2007. 3. Classroom disruptions will not be tolerated at A&M-Commerce.  Legislative appropriations bill contents: 1. Funding for the new music building. 2. Funding request for a construction engineering program. 3. No request for athletics fees at A&M-Commerce. 4. No future increase in fees at TAMU-Commerce planned.  Campus updates: 1. New student center construction on schedule. 2. Walking Mall extension on campus to be completed by August 07. 3. Studying renovation or tear down for Mayo Hall (1936 WPA building). 4. Received recommendations for correcting erosion of Gee Lake. 5. Honor's College has filled 42 of the 50 slots.	

	<p>Provost Frank Ashley's final report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trial use of the IDEA instrument to evaluate faculty teaching success.</li> <li>2. Funded Faculty Senate request for a faculty lounge.</li> <li>3. Beginning Fall, 2007, freshman admissions requirement will be 20 ACT or top 25% of high school graduating class.</li> <li>4. Freshmen Success seminar (1 hour credit) requirement for all freshman beginning Fall, 2007.</li> <li>5. Redistribution of indirect costs of research grant monies.</li> <li>6. Increased funding for Faculty Development.</li> <li>7. Involved department heads in the classroom utilization process.</li> </ol> <p>Dr. Mary Hendrix expressed the difficulty of her decision to accept the Interim Provost position. She did so because of her desire to continue the momentum of Dr. Ashley's tenure and for all that the university has done for her. She asked for the support of faculty senate as she enters the provost position.</p>	
<p>Communication from Senate President Singh</p>	<p>Senate President Singh's comments:</p> <p>Dr. Singh complimented Senator West and the Faculty Awards committee on the success of this year's Faculty Awards luncheon.</p> <p>All senators are encouraged to attend the inauguration of the University Faculty Lounge May 8, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in Binnion Hall. Faculty Senate is in charge of managing the lounge. Dr. Amir Abbassi is the chairman of the Faculty Lounge Committee till August 07.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p><b>Academic Life:</b> Faculty Senate accepted the changes made to the Period for Achieving Academic Tenure Rule 12.01.99.R1. These changes are posted on the Senate web site.</p>	<p>Moved by Amir Abbassi. Seconded. Motion passed.</p>

	<p>The Senate amended the Annual Faculty Evaluation Procedures to include the following statement:          “The department head and dean will make sure that their annual evaluations of each faculty member are based on the same objective criteria used to determine tenure, promotion, and post-tenure reviews. It should be realized that inflated merit ratings, assigned arbitrarily, may become inconsistent when faculty members are later evaluated for tenure, promotion, and post-tenure reviews.”</p> <p><b>Academic Practices:</b> Senator Linda Openshaw submitted her committee’s report summarizing the survey results of the university classroom disruption issue. The following six recommendations were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A student conduct template for all course syllabi.</li> <li>2. A list of unacceptable behaviors to be included in all course syllabi.</li> <li>3. University student handbook rewritten to address appropriate student conduct.</li> <li>4. University student handbook needs to be updated to include a list of inappropriate classroom behaviors.</li> <li>5. Consistent behavior guidelines applied across the campus.</li> <li>6. Stronger sanctions taken against student disruptions.</li> </ol> <p><b>Admission &amp; Retention:</b> Senator John Smith submitted this committee’s recommendations for admission and retention at TAMU-Commerce. A motion was made to table these recommendations for further study.</p> <p><b>Curriculum:</b> Senator David Crenshaw reported his committee approved all changes submitted by the College of Education.</p>	<p>Moved by Philippe Seminet.          Seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Moved by Linda Openshaw.          Seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Moved by Paul Lenchner.          Seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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New Business	<p>Faculty Senate voted to present Provost Frank Ashley a plaque in appreciation for his help in creating the new University Faculty Lounge.</p> <p>The senate approved all May graduates that meet the requirements for their respective degrees.</p>	<p>Moved by Paul Lenchner. Seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Accepted by acclamation.</p>