Meeting: Faculty Senate Date: November 4, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: Binnion 126 Adjournment: 4:05 p.m.

## **Minutes**

Members present: Wilson, Harp, Wascovich, Miskevich, Starnes, Ballotti, Creider, Smith, Hendricks, Seminet, Dorsett, Espinoza, Vinaja, Dang, Horton, Mahan, Basham (Odom), Druhan, Herndon, Robertson (Schroeder), Clinton (Sun), Singh (President), Hammack & Openshaw (Secretary)

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to	October 7, 2008 minutes approved with	Accepted by acclamation.
Approve Minutes	corrections.	
Communication	Senate President Singh met with the	
from Senate	University President and Provost. They	
President Singh	discussed the following issues:	
	Academic Life Committee Open Hearings	
	November 17 & 18, 1:00 p.m. Faculty	
	Lounge	
	President Singh indicated that the hearings	
	would address the new Tenure	
	Implementation Policy, Post-tenure Review	
	Policy, and the Faculty Workload Policy.	
	A&M-Commerce procedures related to the	
	A&M System policies have now been	
	changed to make them consistent with the	
	System Policies. Senators were encouraged to	
	review the proposed changes in procedures	
	and attend the open hearings so we can	
	discuss them. Academic Life Committee of	
	the senate will then develop recommendations	
	based on hearings.	
	Each university department should place their	
	tenure and promotion policies on-line.	
Communication		
from Senate	John Smith attended the Texas Council of	
President-elect	Faculty Senates in Austin October 24-25.	
John Smith	The following suggestions came from the	
	meetings.	
	1. Faculty should become familiar with	
	state senators and congressmen	
	2. Join AAUP—John Smith is starting a	
	chapter at Texas A&M -Commerce	

- 3. Chancellor McKinney's suggestions:
  a. faculty retention and tenure
  - faculty retention and tenure based on research and the ability to attract external funding
  - b. faculty hired with two separate tracks: (1) "term-tenure" clinical status on 3-5 year contracts
    (2) tenure track
  - c. Faculty evaluated by students: those with highest evaluations will receive monetary rewards. Program will begin this year at College Station, Kingsville, and Prairie View. All system schools will participate in spring 2009. The Corpus Christi Campus wants to opt out of this review system.

Dr. Franklin said there are three current searches taking place.

- 1. Dean Arts & Sciences
- 2. VP Institutional Advancement
- 3. Provost and VP Academic Affairs He asked the Faculty Senate to address the following five questions from a faculty perspective:
  - 1. What is the critical short-term agenda at the university?
  - 2. In perusing this agenda-what is the environment going to be?
  - 3. Five years from now what would determine that the provost has done an outstanding job?
  - 4. Why would anyone want these jobs?
  - 5. What knowledge, skills, and experience should this person possess?

Faculty Senate suggestions for Provost:

 maintain academic standards for students while we increase enrollment—need support systems in place for students including financial support;

Interim Dean
Dave Crenshaw
introduced Dr.
Bill Franklin
who is
conducting
academic
searches on
campus

2. need clear & consistent guidelines for tenure and promotion; 3. need support getting two engineering programs running; 4. need to retain and hire faculty with competitive salaries; 5. tuition & fees—should they be raised? 6. understand university in the context of the community and region; 7. advance interdisciplinary education; 8. stimulate conversation about how educators define success; 9. address growing tension between faculty and governing boards; 10. address any negative perception of the university; and 11. adhere to policies and keep paper work down. Faculty Senate President R.N. Singh and President-elect John Smith will be serving on the provost search committee. Dr. Franklin's e-mail address will be posted on the Senate web page for faculty to express views, if needed. Bill.Franklin@academic-search.com Committee **Academic Practices Committee:** Reports Linda Openshaw gave senators a copy of a survey addressing summer school salaries and scheduling. She asked faculty to review it and send any suggestions to her. The survey will be sent to the faculty this fall. **Faculty Awards Committee:** If a committee member is nominated for a faculty award, s/he must withdraw from the committee or withdraw from the award **University Facilities & Scheduling Committee:** Stephen Starnes stated that there are changes in formula funding. Enrollment for spring is low so encourage students to register.