

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Texas A&M University-Commerce

May 2, 2023

Time beginning: Call to order 2:09 p.m.

Present: Hongmei Jia, Christian Hempelmann, Stephen Starnes, Kathryn Dixon, Julia Ballenger, Jason Davis, Mark Moreno (Secretary), Tina Lancaster, Sawyer Magnus, Yasemin Atinc (President), Nikolay Sirakov, Benton Pierce, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Zachary “Zak” Palmer, Thomas Boucher, Andrea Williams, Matt Wood, MaryJo Dondlinger, Maggie Salem, Joshua “Josh” Ege, Tami Morton, Emily Newman, Jane Kosarek, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Brandon Randolph-Seng

Not Present: Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Omar El Ariss, James Devlin, Brock Johnson, Monica Ruff, Ozum Yesiltas

1.) Dr. Ricky Dobbs Addresses the Senate on Advising, Enrollments and Retention.

Dr. Dobbs relayed a brief history of the organizational systems of academic advising at TAMUC along with correlations and changes in recent models along with retention figures of and enrollments, and contrasts between higher first-year enrollments and declining grade scores with relation to retention; he also responded also to questions from senators. Dr. Dobbs stated there was a “desperate” need for faculty involvement in student mentoring.

2.) Dr. Sherri Colby, representative of American Association of University Professors,

Dr. Colby provided a background of the organization and what it does in performing responsibilities as a “watchdog,” along with general information such as scheduled meetings, and she added that the organization also advocates for students. As an influential organization, Colby told senators about how university chapters are established, and about duties that pertain to the state of higher education in Texas.

3.) Conferring Degrees, Spring 2023

Senators voted for the university to confer degrees in May and Summer 2023; Senator Palmer moved to vote on the measure, and Senator Williams seconded. The vote was unanimous; conferring degrees approved for the spring and summer 2023.

4.) Senate Committee Reports

No reports currently.

5.) Update on Posthumous Degree

President Atinc reports the update. With the President’s approval, the posthumous degree was awarded to Rita Dye per earlier discussion and vote.

6.) Volunteers for SEP Initiative needed from The College of Science and Engineering and the College of Innovation and Design

Senator Lancaster volunteered services as representative of the CID for the SEP Initiative.

7.) Updates from Senators working on the revision of the University T&P policies.

Senators Jia and Ballenger reported that the proposed revisions were complete; President Atinc will submit the document to President Rudin after a review by the compliance office.

8.) Senate President and Secretary Elections

Senator Randolph-Seng moved to elect Dr. Atinc as Senate President; Senator Mercado-Sierra seconded the motion; Atinc unanimously is voted Faculty Senate president-elect by unanimous vote. Senator Davis moved to elect Senator Moreno as Senate Secretary; Moreno seconded the motion. Moreno was elected unanimously by acclamation.

9.) Senator Wood moved to adjourn; Senator Ballenger seconded the motion. The Senate voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3 p.m.