

Faculty Senate Meeting 2/6/24

**Attendance:** President Yasemin Atinc, Ozum Yesiltas, Jimmy Womack, Julia Ballenger, Carlos Bertulani, Nikolay Sirakov, William Kuracina, Tami Morton, Benton Pierce, Maggie Salem, Jeanette Vaughan, Carrie Klypchak, Julee Walker, MaryJo Dondlinger, Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt, Rusty Fox, Stephen Starnes, Christian Hempelmann, Kaoning Hu, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Brandon Randolph-Seng

### **FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA – February 2024**

#### **Meeting called to order 2:02pm by President Yasemin Atinc**

Approval of the December meeting minutes. Motion to approve Carrie Klypchak, Second Jason Davis

Correction to attendance Tami Morton and Carrie Klypchak names twice.

Minutes approved

#### **Dr. Ricky Dobbs- SACS Update**

- Remarks regarding SACS accreditation process

- Timeline:

- Sept 2023 - compliance document submitted, then reviewed by peers at other institutions.

- November 2023 - committee responded to document; 18 of 72 standards were non-compliant (within range of typical SACS reporting by campuses)

- November to Present - faculty and staff at TAMUC working on Focus Document - Due Monday, 2/12/24

- QEP Proposal will also be submitted on 2/12

- March 24-28 - SACS onsite visits to main, Rellis, Navarro, Dallas and Mesquite sites

- will interview members of committee, faculty, staff, and students regarding our Focus Document and Compliance Document

- 15 of 18 areas are easy to clarify by staff and faculty, ex. Audit filing timeline; CV for Dr. Archie and Abby Harper, Faculty credentials lost in transmission, Faculty Hiring Search Guidelines for non-tenure track faculty, program coordinator qualifications

- 3 larger areas of “heavier lifts” -

1) demonstration of hiring quality faculty through credentials per 2014 policy, i.e., MS, 18hours, terminal degree

- actual hiring practices have been lax, others have evolved with current industry,

- current practice and standards may need adjustment to

2) academic program assessment - need a sampling of continual improvement toward progress

- now reporting 40% of programs, and have determined that we (TAMUC) need to progress and leave old, ineffective assessments behind;

- even standards that show excellence need to evolve

3) core curriculum reporting - we have academic freedom, but need to show how we are improving within the core and not just staying with current curriculum; how are we improving

**- Remarks from Provost Tammi Vacha-Haase:**

1) searches for Deans are concluding this month with candidates on campus; will need faculty to participate in forums

2) Dept Chairs are being asked to build out a 2-year class schedule to help with count year enrollment; show that courses apply to SB 25 Course Rotations, e.g., prioritize rotations to maximize enrollment

3) Open to conversations of how we use ALL of our resources, both monetary and human, to achieve goals, e.g., increases of salaries

4) Summer schedule is now due, with guidelines for pay and needs for enrollment increase by 5%; Dr. Dobbs went back to 2022 and 2023 numbers to determine targets and identify what offerings might help with increased enrollment; some conversations ongoing for making winter-mini / may-mini free and paid for by Provost Office, as well as talks regarding pay structure for summer instructors

- Does research lead to increased enrollment? According to Dr. Dobbs, it increases the value of the instructors by providing up to date information, but we aren't doing a great job at conveying that to the community, parents, and students

- Comments regarding how administration is evaluated and prove they are helping with enrollment. A lack of communication and shared governance exists, and therefore a disconnect exists regarding how enrollment is being addressed by administration, especially recruitment and retention

- Comments by Senators and discussion ensued regarding evaluation of VP's, directors, and campus leadership, e.g., the need for transparency regarding feedback

**Dr. Alex Williams and Mr. Jim Curry- Athletics Update**

- Jim Curry - Presentation

- Mr. Curry has been on the TAMUC campus for approximately 9 months

- Academics and Faculty matter to the mission of producing successful student athletes

- He came from a different kind of sport background: small town in Maine, small liberal arts college and played football; first job in admissions D3 college; helped initiate a new football

program; helped formulate experience in development of synergy between athletics and academics; experiences at Coastal Carolina and Florida Stat helped formulate strategies that will be utilized here at TAMUC

- Myths to be Dispelled:

- 1) quality of academic programs and faculty is a minimal factor in the recruitment process
- 2) student-athletes are more concerned with athletic obligations compared to academic commitments
- 3) student-athletes are not worried about sticking out in the classroom being labeled as dumb jocks
- 4) student-athletes are permitted to miss class to attend practice
- 5) Coaches are unwilling to change practice to accommodate class schedules
- 6) Coaches do not punish athletes for missing class
- 7) all athletes are on a "full-ride" scholarships
- 8) Professors are asked to complete student progress reports, but no one reads or acts on them

- NCAA D1 Academic Requirements

- pre-enrollment and transfer eligibility requirements

- Continuing eligibility requirements

- 6 hours degree-applicable each full-time term (Football - 9 hours in Fall)

- 18 hours combined between fall and spring

- progress toward degree (24hours/40%/60%/80%) - years 1 through 4

- GPA (1.8/1.9/2.0) years 2 through 4

- Questions from the Faculty Senate Floor: Has moving to D1 helped enrollment? Jim Curry Answer: Yes, but there is room for growth in how TAMUC operates from an enrollment, recruitment, advertising side; helps maintain the number of athletes;

- Has moving to D1 helped finances? Jim Curry Answer: ~\$10M dollars brought to university, with \$4M used for operations and \$4M given in scholarships; secured 5 year \$1.6M deal with Hunt Regional

- How can athletics help attract non-athletes to attend TAMUC? Jim Curry Answer: Athletics creates an environment and culture, with exposure, that attracts students to the campus, ex., Instagram reels with over 1M views of TAMUC track athlete

- Fall 2023 Current status: 3.08 average GPA for student-athletes; 13 teams with over 3.0 or better; 42 students with a 4.0; 171 athletes with 3.0 - 3.99

- Only school in Southland to have academic all-Americans

- Academic Progress Rate and Graduation Success Rate - utilized to track eligibility, retention, and degree completion (with academic standing upon departure); will finalize data later this year for reporting, but 80% of athletes graduated and or were eligible for transfer

- Opportunities for Partnership

  - HHP – Sport Science and Athlete Wellness

- NIL / business / marketing / entrepreneurship

- equipment safety

- business analytics

- visual communications / graphic design

- broadcasting / video

- turf sciences

- coaching / leadership .

- admin

- recruiting

- **Alex Williams** - role is required by NCAA; reports to President not the Athletic Director; provides a voice for athletes and faculty disagreements / issues, e.g., Student athlete travel and missing academic work / communication with professors; working with students with mental health issues - coordination of services and navigating academic load management

### **Department Head Council Meeting**

- main topic of conversation - VP salaries; merit pay pool; need for communication of standards for distribution of merit; each university within the system was asked to chip in for the 3% pool (\$500,000 from academic affairs); Deans were asked to search for areas to contribute; each Dean determined the best way to accomplish the contribution;

### **Updates from the Assembly of Faculty Senates Meeting**

Upcoming TCFS Meeting - Yasmine traveling on 2/21, will bring updates

Senators working on the revision of the University T&P and Department Head policies.

- Dr. Julia Ballenger update: Has reviewed current evaluation of DH and supplementary evaluation, with no major issues;

Using an instrument matrix that was easy to use, but effective; working to develop / revise a policy for utilizing the Evaluation instrument, with standards of implementation; Deans will also have input and agreement to said policy and utilization for improvement and growth of Department Heads;

**Senate Awards- TABPHE Collaboration**

- William Edward's asked with FS would like to collaborate with TABPHE this year for the FS awards ceremony and training event; Regent's Professor at Spring Convocation

**Initial campus wide survey results -**

- major findings: faculty want higher salaries and want to hear from their FS within the department

**Sharing information with departments, communication issues. Senators are encouraged to share information from the Senate Meetings with Faculty.**

Motion to adjourn: Jason Davis; 2<sup>nd</sup> Julia Ballenger

**Meeting adjourned: 3:53pm**