

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: April 7, 2015
 Time: 2:04 p.m.
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Heslop, Huber, Slovak, Arslan, Nippani, Ballenger, Dang, Smith, Davis, Anderson, Taneja, Ballotti, Kelly, Smithers, King, Pierce, Starnes (President), Hammack (Secretary), Openshaw (Secretary).

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to Approve Minutes	Motion to approve March Minutes with corrections.	Moved by Chad King. Seconded. Motion passed.
<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Dean University College</p>	<p>Dean Dobbs discussed the Accountability Report. It is housed on the Coordinating Board Website and can be accessed at the following link: http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/</p> <p>Dean Dobbs presented a Power Point presentation which included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Higher education institutions are mandated to update the report annually. 2. We are concerned with First-time Full-time (FTFT) freshman students who graduated from high school and begin university in the fall. They are a key tracking measure for funding. 3. We are accountable to assure that students graduate in 6 years, but the number may be dropped to 4 years and the legislature is moving to performance based funding. 4. We need to improve our graduation rate and the following strategies are proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) High impact practices such as students involved in freshman success, study abroad, working with faculty or doing an honor's thesis to improve graduation rates. b) Systemized intrusive advising. c) "Math" and "major" interventions. d) Revision of admissions (move from top 25% to top 30%), and scholarship policies (creation of merit-based scholarships with merit-based aid as a predictor). 	

	<p>5. We have already changed our admission's appeal process which is point based and it is helping. Those who appeal have to write an essay with three parts:</p> <p>a) Why do you want to come to TAMUC?</p> <p>b) What life experiences will help you succeed?</p> <p>c) What are your academic skills?</p>	
<p>Communications: President Starnes</p>	<p>President Starnes reminded Senators: University Convocation ceremony Wednesday April 15, from 11: 00 a.m.-noon. Faculty Awards luncheon Thursday April 16, begins at noon.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports:</p>	<p>Academic Practices: Committee held their final meeting and will submit a report at May Senate meeting.</p> <p>Admissions and Retention: Dean Dobbs confirmed the existing policy for incoming freshmen. Students must take Math & Science. Advisors must assure that students continue to register for these classes each semester until they pass the courses.</p> <p>Budget: Sub-committees have been meeting and will finalize reports by April 22. Report will be given to Senate at May meeting.</p> <p>Curriculum: Committee has completed assigned work for the year.</p>	
<p>New Business:</p>	<p>Dr. Starnes discussion with President Jones on March 25:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A request by some faculty to have Thanksgiving week off – to align our schedule better with local school districts, many of which have the entire week off now. Thanksgiving week is generally not very productive in the classroom. If classes did not meet Thanksgiving week, the semester would start earlier or end later. Dr. Jones and his staff will look into the proposal. 2. A proposal to provide retirees and alumni benefits to attend athletic events at a reduced rate. Dr. Jones will look into the proposal – what is currently offered if anything and what could be offered as an incentive to retirees and alumni and to athletic programs to boost attendance at events. 	

	<p>3. Linda Openshaw as a representative of the Title IX Committee asked Senators to find volunteers from his or her department to receive training for Title IX appeals. Please contact Michele Vieira with names.</p> <p>4. Jason Davis asked for clarification on class size limitations. President Starnes said it is included in the Workload policy of several other Texas universities but has not been adopted here. At this point, the only recourse is to negotiate with each Dean regarding class size.</p> <p>Election of Officers: President-elect: Chad King Recording Secretary: Stephen Starnes Communications Secretary: possibly Stephen Starnes Treasurer: Julia Ballenger</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business:</p>	<p>Dr. Starnes reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Starnes met with Police Chief Donna Spinato to discuss the proposed additional faculty parking spots in the MRSC parking lot. Dr. Starnes will meet with Senator Davis to formalize the proposal for the traffic committee. 2. Dr. Starnes received an e-mail response from Provost Benavides on March 6 regarding the faculty workload policy. This policy is still under review at Dean’s Council. 3. Dr. Starnes also discussed with Dr. Jones on March 25 the faculty concerns regarding the lack of action on discussions of faculty workload policy at the College level between Deans and their faculty. Dr. Jones indicated that he would follow up with Provost Benavides on the issue. 4. Dr. Starnes received an e-mail from the Provost about proposed changes to graduation ceremonies. The changes included having graduate and undergraduate students in the same college participate in commencement ceremonies together. The University will pilot a program and move faculty seating to a more favorable position for spring 2015 ceremonies but will not combine undergraduate and graduate ceremonies within a College due to limited seating. 	

	<p>5. Dr. Jones asked Alicia Curran to follow up on the proposal to create a scholarship pool for faculty and staff dependents to receive financial assistance if they choose to attend A&M-Commerce for their studies. Cheryl Scott has been working on this request and has prepared a summary of institutions in Texas that offer a similar program. Alicia has asked her to follow-up with these institutions to see what the financial implication is for each of them. Once the data is gathered, Alicia will provide the information to Dr. Jones for his recommendation. Hopefully, the results will be reported at the May meeting.</p> <p>6. Building access during holidays (procedure & recommendations) is currently under review at Dean's Council. From there it will go to UPD for review & comments and then to Alicia Curran. The goal is to have a finalized revised draft by the end of the semester.</p> <p>7. Senator Ballotti is following up on the proposal to name the Performing Arts Center after John Hanners.</p> <p>8. The Piper application was submitted and Professor Mildred Pryor, (Department of Management) is the nominee. The award recipients will be announced in May.</p> <p>9. IT security policy does not allow for retirees and alumni to have access to A&M-Commerce servers (e-mail). The same holds for IT storage for adjuncts between semesters.</p> <p>10. The proposed summer faculty compensation model was approved and is in place for summer 2015. Dr. Jones said that he would follow up to verify the model is in place.</p> <p>11. The Patrick Dougherty artwork project on campus was supported using philanthropic funds obtained from the Advancement Office.</p> <p>12. The spring 2016 term will be the first term in which TAMUC will officially use the blended course label. We will have three course types—fully online (W), blended (B), and enhanced/F2F (E).</p>	
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