

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: March 3, 2015  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

# Minutes

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

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Motion to Approve Minutes	Motion to approve February Minutes.	Moved by Chad King. Seconded. Motion passed.
<p><b>Guest Speakers:</b></p> <p>Dr. LaVelle Hendricks,          President-Texas Council of Faculty Senates</p> <p>Wyman Williams,          Director of Development</p>	<p>1. President Hendricks reported that Chancellor Sharp is on record saying it is okay to have guns on campus, and it appears that the legislature will pass the bill approving guns on campus. It may be possible for the Chancellor to allow each campus president in the A&amp;M system to have discretion to determine whether or not guns would be allowed on his or her campus. Dr. Hendricks believes our faculty should send a letter to the Chancellor imploring him to allow each campus president to have his or own discretion regarding how the law is applied on each campus.</p> <p>2. The Hazelwood Act provides for veterans to go to public universities in Texas for a nominal fee. Funds for this act are being increased.</p> <p>Mr. Williams presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 125 year history of our university. He is available to make this presentation to any department or campus organization.</p> <p>The Senators recommended a web-site link to the Development office to view the Power Point presentation.</p>	

<p><b>Communications from President Starnes:</b></p>	<p>President Starnes &amp; Sean Anderson (President-elect) attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting in Austin last weekend. President Starnes presented the following items that Dr. James Hallmark discussed with the A&amp;M System Faculty Senate Presidents.</p> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a strong probability that the legislature will pass the bill allowing for weapons to be carried concealed or open on campus. President Starnes encouraged Senators to talk to his or her department and poll the faculty to find out how faculty members feel about open-carry or concealed guns on campus.</li> <li>2. There is a 50/50 chance that undocumented children legislation will pass. The Chancellor's opinion is that the System will not institutionalize poverty.</li> <li>3. More funding for the Hazelwood Program is likely and qualification requirements will be tightened.</li> <li>4. Automatic transfer is being debated in the legislature. The debate is about transferring program/field of study courses. The goal is to decrease the amount of time to complete a degree and reduce debt.</li> <li>5. Automatic acceptance of the top 10% (2.5 GPA or the completion of 60 hours of community college credit) the System may admit but does not guarantee admission into a specific program.</li> <li>6. Tuition revenue bonds (now called Capital Projects) are being considered for funding.</li> <li>7. Outcomes based formula funding will probably not happen.</li> <li>8. Governor Abbott's State of the State Address highlighted 5 emergency items: Public education (early education), Higher education research initiatives (\$500 million to recruit researchers &amp; Nobel laureates), Transportation, Border security, Ethics reform.</li> </ol>	
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	<p>Statewide issues discussed during the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments were made that online instruction is very expensive compared to face-to-face instruction. The cost of online instruction versus face-to-face instruction should be evaluated.</li> <li>• Next year’s meetings of the TCFS will center on faculty governance. How to institute change for more faculty governance and what this looks like at different institutions.</li> <li>• Should there be a faculty representative for communication with the Board of Regents for each system?</li> <li>• Create a committee for face-time with legislatures during sessions so that faculty and legislature do not “talk past each other”, to show faculty interest in specific topics, to better inform legislatures of issues on campus.</li> <li>• There will be an initiative to reach out to other states to help them organize their own State Council of Faculty Senates.</li> </ul> <p>President Starnes attend the UCD ribbon-</p>	

	<p>cutting ceremony on February 6, 2015. He encouraged the Senators to visit the facility. The major emphasis of this campus is Business Administration, Management, Accounting, Higher Education and the Fine Arts with an emphasis in Visual Communication. There are facilities to have meetings there in addition to offering courses. They will have TTVN capabilities as well.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an effort on campus to develop co-curricular transcripts which would track student service (and could be used to track faculty/staff service work). Utilize OrgSyn (MANESyn) software.</li> <li>• Strategic enrollment plan: 16,000 students by 2019. 5% growth by College/program.</li> <li>• A&amp;M will be making a bid to host a presidential or VP debate for the upcoming 2016 elections. Market the strength of the system – community input, voter registration, democracy events.</li> <li>• Regents Professor Convocation Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Old Pride shop will become a multicultural center and will be hiring a new director.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Reports:</b></p>	<p><b>Academic Practices:</b> Senator Ballenger reported her committee is working on a civility statement for course syllabus.</p> <p><b>Awards Committee:</b> Senator Lopez presented the changes made to the Faculty Awards System 12.99.99.R0.03 to update this policy. A motion to approve these changes was made. A motion was made to accept the 2015 awards recommendations. The Awards Banquet is Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>Moved by Sri Nippani. Seconded. Motion passed.</p>

<p><b>New Business:</b></p>	<p>1. A resolution passed to have a letter drafted by an ad hoc committee from the Faculty Senate to express Senates’ opposition to open carry or concealed weapons (if there is a choice) being on campus.</p> <p>2. John Hanners was proposed as the name for the Performing Arts Center.</p> <p>3. An inquiry was made about the cost of tree art and also if there is additional art work inside a building by this artist?</p> <p>4. A motion was made to approve funds for travel to the February meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates in Austin, Texas.</p> <p>5. President Starnes will e-mail the recent Accountability Report. He will invite speakers to the April and May meeting to discuss aspects of the report where they have expertise. Please read through the report and let President Starnes know which aspects you would like to have more information on (so that he can invite the appropriate person who can speak to an item). A few notables from the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. The African American student population has increased 119% since 2000.</li><li>B. The Hispanic student population has increased 311% since 2000. So we are making good efforts to have a more diverse student population that reflects our regional demographics.</li><li>C. 67% of our students come to us with some community college credit.</li><li>D. The number of tenured/tenure track faculty teaching lower level courses fell from 46.9% in 2000 to 34.3% in 2014 (a 12.6% decline),</li></ul>	<p>Moved by Linda Openshaw Seconded. Motion passed</p> <p>Moved by Barbara Hammack. Seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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	<p>which is troubling but the student-faculty ratio has remained about the same at 19:1.</p> <p>E. Our percentage of faculty who are full-time faculty members who are tenured or tenure track is only 48%, which is very low compared to peer institutions and aspirational institutions (which have 58-87% tenured or tenure-track faculty members).</p> <p>F. Our 4-year, 5-year and 6-year graduation rates have each increased since 2000 (by 5%, 9% and 7% respectively, but the overall graduation rates are still low at 26%, 42% and 53% respectively).</p> <p>6. Elections for new Senators (for those with expiring terms) need to be made during March.</p> <p>7. Elections for President-elect, treasurer, and secretary needs to take place in April. Give some serious consideration whether you will be willing to serve in these roles next year.</p>	
<p><b>Unfinished Business:</b></p>	<p>A status update is needed on the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faculty workload policy</li> <li>2. Graduation rearrangement</li> <li>3. Building access during breaks</li> <li>4. Faculty parking near the Sam Rayburn Student Center</li> <li>5. TAMUC e-mail and library access privileges for retiring/retired faculty members</li> </ol>	