

Texas A & M University San Antonio

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting 5/3/12 / Main Building Room 304

1. Introduction of newly Elected Senators

Brian Brantley, Vicki Elias , Jim Hackard, Megan Wise de Valdez, Richard Green, Dennis Elam, Durant Frantzen, Carolyn Green, Kevin Kendrick, Stefanie Wittenbach, Mary Mayorga, Pat Holmes, and Carolyn Webb

2. Megan Wise de Valdez takes Office as President

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

3. Selection of new VP/President Elect

Senators serve two year terms. The VP becomes the VP for one year and then President for the next year. Megan opened the floor for nominations. Duties include running the meeting when the President is absent. VP and President also attend the President's Leadership Council which meets every other Friday.

Jim Hackard nominated Carolyn Green. Brian Brantley and Mary Mayorga self-nominated. Motion to close nominations was made.

Brian becomes VP with seven of the twelve votes.

4. Election of Parliamentarian and Secretary. Megan explained that the Senate has been sending out e-mails as access to the intranet is difficult. Notifying the Faculty of elections for Senate is also part of the job.

There are also meetings outside the regular meeting. Pat nominated Stefanie for Secretary. Megan nominated Vicky Elias as Secretary. Vicky immediately threw support to Stefanie. Jim moved nominations cease. Stefanie was elected Secretary by acclamation.

Mary self-nominated for Parliamentarian. Nominations ceased. Mary was elected 7-5.

Officers for FY13 are Megan Wise de Valdez, President; Brian Brantley, Vice President/President Elect; Stefanie Wittenbach, Secretary; and Mary Mayorga, Parliamentarian.

7. Compensation for mentoring Graduate Theses

Rebecca Brown presented a case supporting compensation for graduate projects. Four A&M Schools provide such compensation. See attached.

#### GRP and Thesis Compensation Proposal

Graduate faculty members should get \$750 a semester for each thesis mentored. A graduate research project would receive \$500. This would be capped at four projects. The Graduate Council reviewed this proposal and is in favor. Rebecca inquired if the Faculty Senate would support this idea.

Megan wanted to know if this should come from the Department or from the Senate. Megan thought the Senate should serve as such a liaison.

Richard suggested we should make a motion. Durant suggested we have some discussion. Richard made a motion to support this idea. Stefanie said there was an additional suggestion proposed by Dr. Hurley. It specifically addressed allowances for this sort of thing. Richard indicated that the Graduate Council had approved this proposal. Richard mentioned that the Graduate Council was part of the Faculty Senate.

Dennis asked about the nature of a thesis. The answer is that it is a requirement in A&S and Education & Kinesiology for a Master's degree. The thesis work carries a course number.

The motion carried with Dennis voting no. Dennis suggested that the theses should be recorded at the library. Stefanie indicated that all the theses at this time were in a drawer in Gary Coulton's office. Perhaps there will be a program to record these digitally in the future.

Stefanie suggested there be a memo that goes forward to the Provost. Motion to send a directive to the Provost, amended to May 19 to send it forward, date and written memo both passed. All were in favor of the motion as amended.

8. Consideration of faculty advising was tabled, motion to table passed.

5. Setting of meeting dates for August through December

Megan suggested we keep the first week of the month for the meeting date. Richard suggested that we have this meeting on the first Friday. If we met at 11:30, this might result in more faculty attending the war room meetings on the first Friday of each month. Megan proposed 11:30.

The war room is at Brooks in the small auditorium. Richard motioned that we alternate between the two campuses meeting at 11:00-12:30.

Richard suggested a special meeting in August. Megan wanted to know if we report on the earlier agenda item that is being worked on, namely the annual evaluation form and process. Durant suggested September. Date will be announced later.

8. Theresa Torres, advisor from A&S, made a presentation.

Issues include

-students often wait until the last semester to take some lower division, core classes

-can we implement a minimum number of uncompleted core course hours? Jim Hackard noted this would actually be a maximum number of hours.

-Jim asked if this was any six to nine hours or can we specify the courses. Theresa suggested that this should be an admissions policy. Theresa noted that students can have 45 hours but be missing 12 hours of the core.

Stefanie noted this flies in the face of the aggressive enrollment policy. Durant wondered how many would decide not to enroll. Stefanie noted they would not have a choice. Vicky noted the difficulty of students scheduling classes while they work.

Pat noted that Kevin had students who had not taken anatomy trying to take physiology. Kevin noted that if the department has pre-requisites for classes this would help alleviate the problem.

Durant thought we should identify the most problematic courses. Science and math would have essential areas.

Mary suggested we had more leeway than we thought regarding courses. Megan noted we are still tied to the Banner program at Kingsville.

Theresa thought it would help all departments. Stefanie thought we should tackle the graduation issues separately.

Theresa noted that at the time they apply for graduation they should not lack more than six hours at Alamo CC.

Theresa wanted the creation of a policy about application for graduation. Students could not need more than six hours from the Alamo Colleges when

they apply. Carolyn raised the issue of how many hours a student would be lacking at the time of graduation application.

Richard motioned that Durant become a committee chair and include Jennifer from Enrollment to make recommendations. Durant, Jennifer Zamarripa, Carolyn Green, and Theresa Torres would be on the committee. That motion passed. They will report in September.

6. Over the summer these committees will be working:

- a committee on annual evaluations

- a committee on graduation policies

- Stefanie suggested a committee on the constitution, including the observation that we need an additional librarian, Megan suggested the Executive Council work on this project.

- Vicky Elias was concerned about extra credit for students completing their evaluations. Megan wanted to know if she proposed this as a policy. Kevin suggested this was a financial issue to cut down on scantrons and the human time to do this. Mary noted the problem was that the student gets points for an evaluation; this leads to a sort of favoritism. Megan proposed that she offered two points on the final exam if they filled it out. Mary wondered why we need to give points to fill out the evaluation.

Mary suggested the current online process is flawed and not resulting in adequate response. Megan suggested that if only a few fill them out they are likely to be negative. Durant suggested this be included in the Faculty Evaluation discussion. SRIs are part of this.

Within the department, form a committee, solicit information, the idea is that we as faculty senators will head that search for data. Megan will bring this up at her Faculty meeting. The requirement of tabulating the SRI scores ourselves seems odd. What other ways can we be evaluated.

Durant suggested putting the faculty evaluation in a pdf format, let the faculty respond on a survey monkey.

Richard noted there is discontent about the current Faculty Evaluation Form.

Richard noted that if we come up with the perfect plan we still need to sell it to the administration.

Stefanie formally thanked Richard for his service. Motion to adjourn passed.