

Faculty Senate Meeting

Tx A & M San Antonio

March 1, 2012

Pat Holmes, Megan Wise , Richard Green, Dennis Elam, Ed Westermann present

1. Minutes from the February 2, 2012 Meeting

Minutes will be posted on line in the future. They were not available in print for the meeting.

2. Ed Westermann presented the faculty survey using a + - grading system. He noted worry about putting it into a Banner system and how it might influence financial aid. He was surprised that most of the faculty had little experience with such a system.

He reviewed the findings of the survey. This is attached.

The Registrar was against modifying the grading system. As to committee members, the Business School was against, no response from Education, and Ed as the Arts and Sciences member was for it.

Megan observed that a plus minus system would allow for recognition of exceptional or less than exceptional students. She observed that the survey shows that since it seems to be 50/50, we need to find a way to educate the members on what we are proposing.

Pat thought that most of the faculty did not understand the proposal. She thought that other major issues were of greater importance. She did not think the school was ready to make this kind of change at this time.

Pat suggested that discussions in department meetings would be a better start for the idea. It needs more discussion at the department level.

Richard said that we could not make the change at this time
-we do not have control of Banner for changing the system, that is a year way
- we are frozen until accreditation comes through

Those two things have to happen before this can be put in place. This is a year and a half away. He agreed with the idea of disseminating the information. Ed noted the response rate was 85 out of 200 adjuncts and full time faculty.

Richard asked Ed to prepare a summary report and show the results in graph form by school response. Richard will post it.

No recommendation is made at that time, Megan made the motion, Pat seconded, there was no opposition.

3. Post Tenure Review

Megan indicated it is still in draft form being fine-tuned by herself, Durant and Dr. Snow. A working draft will go to the school heads. Then once their recommendation is made it will be incorporated into the document. Then it will be submitted for the Faculty Senate to have the last say before it goes to the Board of Regents. The Faculty Senate is the voice of the Faculty. Pat observed that we do not make decisions for Faculty. Megan said Faculty should be here. Pat observed that we do not make their decisions. Megan suggested Faculty should be here. Megan observed that it could be posted in the Intranet so that it could be discussed before the meeting.

Pat observed that someone tenured should be involved. The committee is composed of untenured faculty. Pat observed that the initial effort did not have any clear results. She observed that the Administration had put it together. Why would faculty vote against it if the Administration put it together? Pat observed that Education felt the Senate was being run by the Administration.

Megan observed that streamlining the process of creating a document is difficult. Pat wanted the opportunity to have faculty discuss it. Two hundred people cannot create a document.

Richard observed that before the draft is approved and goes to Board of Regents, the Senate would need to distribute that draft to the Faculty. A special meeting would need to be called. Megan and Dennis were not clear on whether this would be a meeting separate from the regular meetings.

Pat observed that since this was a policy for tenured faculty, no one that is tenured has seen it. Richard suggested it be disseminated and there be a time for comments. There would be an open meeting for discussion. Ed suggested the process needed to begin when the School Heads got the document.

Pat suggested this is an important document. It is important and she felt faculty needed access to view the document.

Megan wanted to clarify the function of the Faculty Senate. When the Senate is asked to create a document, the job is to make advisory suggestions. Richard confirmed advisory suggestions were the only thing the Senate could do. Megan observed that Senate was still at the behest of the Administration.

Pat wanted the faculty to have the ability to view the document. Pat and Megan disagreed about the time to vote on adoption of the document.

Pat observed that School Heads would set a time deadline for comments. Megan wanted to know how that is different. Richard did not understand Pat's concern.

Over a failure to communicate, Megan suggested the Intranet be used, Pat Richard intervened suggesting that the document would be available, the School Heads would receive it. And there would be a time line. Pat suggested here objections were not clear.

Dennis suggested a corollary issue. It was the severe limitations on communications caused by lack of a website. Richard suggested it was a personnel problem. Ed agreed that there was a problem as Dennis suggested. It does not seem possible to provide a ready link as one has to navigate several layers of the school website and log in to find the information.

Richard said that to prepare the site the tools are blocked off from him.

4,5. Items about policy for faculty use of electronic devices and who has the right to enter an office were on the agenda. The faculty suggesting these items did not appear at the meeting.

Richard described that a faculty member had a Cisco device for internet access. Some one from IT entered the office. The IT person took the equipment to Syed Harun. He informed Syed that this was a violation of policy, breaking the law. While these are government offices, why should a staff member coerce an administrative assistant for entry to an office and confiscate personal property.

Richard and Megan both thought this was a serious issue. Megan observed that the security officer entered offices regularly at will. Megan observed that while she was in her office, someone knocked and entered the office without a chance to answer.

Richard said the position indicated to Dr. Harun was that this is illegal. This is incorrect. He asked if he used his phone to power his own internet was that against the rules. At this point Richard thought this was an issue to pursue. Are there policies at other campuses. Megan thought that would be appropriate. Where did the person who claimed this was illegal get that idea?

6. Implementation of rules pertaining to graduation.
Final Semester residency, incomplete coursework, and CLEEP testing on foreign language requirement are issues under consideration.

Richard observed that students had been in class for some time. The idea of going over requirements that should have been met already seems regressive. If there is incomplete course work there should be oversight. Apparently some people have walked the stage before completing their course requirements. This is tabled.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.