

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 2nd, 2021

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Virtual: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=mc3c98c5895e6adfb22c231943aa4c326>

In Attendance: Joseph Simpson, Sabina de Vries, Aida Almanza, April Najjaj, Bob Shelton, Brenda Rowe, Brenda Rushing, Bryan Bayles, Chin-Yen Liu, Cynthia Matson, Daniel Delgado, Elias McCullen, Elizabeth Hasseler, Elizabeth Leyva, Eun Kwon, Francesca Keith, Ho Huynh, James Finley, Jenny Moore, Jeremy Zuni, Jong Lim, Katherine Bridgman, KC, Keming Li, Leonard Love, Liz, Malin Lilley, Maria Acevedo-Aquino, Matthew Mangum, Md Rahman, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBraal, Michael O'Brien, Myriam Jimena Guerra, Ray Kamps, Rebekah Piper, Sandra Lara, Sarah Pollock, Shannon Shen, Smriti Bhatt, Thomas Beaumont, Veronica Valdes, Vicky Elias, Mario Baldassari, Marshall, Vijay Golla, William Erickson, Young Rae Kim

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Approval of Minutes: Maria Acevedo-Aquino attended last meeting.
Motion by Matthews Mangum and second by Leonard Love to approve the minutes.

Approve: 22

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Minutes were approved as amended.

Administrative Updates:

Dr. O'Brien provided administrative updates:

- Registration proceeded smoothly for the most part. In terms of the book store, the University still has a contractual agreement with them. There will be a separate, small meeting on book store concerns.
- To be a research university the University needs post docs. Plans are to offer a start-up package for post docs.

Dr. Teniente-Matson provided administrative updates:

Dr. Teniente-Matson sent out a president's report to the Faculty Senate. Legislative affairs: It has been busy the last several weeks in terms of federal and state affairs. Last week the University hosted representative Tony Gonzales for his second visit to A&M – San Antonio. Representative Gonzales is also on the appropriation committee.

- Increased funding and grants are becoming available.
- Infrastructure initiatives are planned.
- State Funding – Senate Finance Committee restored the 25% expansion funding reduction.

- New SB 1295 targeted at existing regional universities (27 campuses): This bill provides a bonus for graduating at risk students.
- Cares Act funding for higher education; working through at the cabinet level.
- Diversity office – Dr. Teniente-Matson met with cabinet members on how to work together.
- Ombudsperson proposal – The president’s cabinet decided to fund the proposal with a couple of amendments. The ombudsperson will be housed in the office of academic affairs however, the ombudsperson will work independently. Start time will be as soon as possible. Funding will be provided beginning Summer 2021. There will be quarterly report requirements on how this program is progressing.
- Faculty salary assessment question: This will possibly get done this fall (per Provost Dr. O’Brien)
- Faculty release time pricing - Dr. Golla presented: Allocation of faculty work load change to 60/20/20 (teaching, service, research). Change from 6.7% to 10% in terms of grant course buyout. Buyout of a course costs about \$3000.

Ohio State University Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness: Elias McCullen presented on the Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness. Ohio State University conducts this study every three years. It compared A&M -San Antonio to 60 other campuses.

Old Business

- Update on Diversity Office ad hoc committee: – James Finley reported that the committee met with President Matson, Joseph Simpson, and Leonard Love. The plan is to submit a report at the May faculty senate meeting.
- Update - Evaluation of Chairs and Deans ad hoc committee – Megan Wise de Valdez reported that the committee chair is Teresa Garfield; Megan is the co-chair. The first meeting was held March 26 and the committee was formally charged at that time. One goal is to develop a survey. The committee is working on steps/focus. The tentative goal for implementation is in 2022.
- Update - Faculty Handbook ad hoc committee – Matthew Mangum reported that the faculty handbook is progressing. Received feedback form Human Resources, Title IX, and Compliance.
- Update on Ombudsman ad hoc committee – Megan Wise de Valdez stated that the committee will be reconvening to work on creating an application.

New Business

- Core Curriculum Committee Update – James Finley provided updates. This is the second year the senate had a core curriculum committee. Rubics used to evaluate core classes have been revised. Requested feedback regarding these revised rubric. Dean Feakes from College of Arts and Sciences suggested hiring a consultant to look at the core curriculum process.
- 2021 Faculty Senate Elections – Matthew Mangum reported that there are seven senators whose terms are expiring. The elections committee is in the process of requesting nominations. The deadline is Friday 4/9 at 5pm. New senators will be seated May 7. Also there will be elections for secretary and parliamentarian during the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Announcements:

Strategic planning committee – a doodle poll was sent out for future meetings. Senators are asked to respond to the doodle poll.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.