

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 7, 2017

Faculty Senators Present: Cory Ross, Amy Porter, Robin Kapavik, Jack Ayres, KC Kalmbach, Kevin Barton, Carolyn Green, Theresa Dorel, Caroline O'Quinn, Jenny Wilson (via Adobe Connect), Deidre McDonald, & Bryant Moore

Guests: Cynthia Matson, Mike O'Brien, Lorrie Webb, Ed Westermann, Rebekah Piper, Megan Wise de Valdez, Katherine Gillen, Douglas Carter, Katie Bridgman (via Adobe Connect)

Approval of Minutes:

- Under Faculty Merit & Evaluations, Ed Westermann asked for the following change: delete "a lack of" & replace with "using" and delete "by the peers" & replace with "and should be with chairs"
- Under Calendar Committee, KC Kalmbach asked for the following change: replace "later" with "earlier"
- Deidre McDonald pointed out that "Dr." next to her name is not correct
- Amy Porter motioned for approval of minutes with mentioned changes. Caroline O'Quinn seconded the motion

Remarks by University Provost:

- Mike O'Brien acknowledged & congratulated Cory Ross in earning her most recent grant
- Lorrie Webb asked the provost about the Dean & Department Chair evaluations established by Faculty Senate during Dr. Snow's time as provost. Mike O'Brien said that his office was working on sending out the evaluation surveys to faculty. He also stated that the quantitative data from the surveys would be shared with faculty. Ed Westermann thanked the provost for sharing the data with faculty because only anecdotal data had been shared in the past.

Remarks by University President:

- Cynthia Matson shared that TAMU-SA will probably be facing a 6%-10% cut, which is better than the much larger cut that was originally proposed for public universities in the state of Texas.
- She reminded everyone that the Ring Ceremony would take place on Saturday and they anticipated 420 students at the morning ceremony and 500 plus at the afternoon ceremony. She explained that students had established a new tradition of displaying the rings in the dome of the CAB building for 24 hours prior to the Ring Ceremony.

- Similar to Muster at TAMU, TAMU-SA planned to create its own “Jaguars Remember” on the same date to remember students who pass away during their enrollment in the university.
- She reminded everyone of upcoming Fiesta and Graduation events.

Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives—

Poll Results:

- Robin Kapavik shared the results from 2 polls disseminated to faculty
- +/- Letter Grades: Of those who responded to the poll,
 - 55.88% - “Yes, I support changing the grading system to +/-”
 - 33.82% - “No, I do not support this change”
 - 10.29% - “I have no opinion”
 - See attached document for respondents’ comments
- Polytechnic Information for Special Session to follow today’s Faculty Senate Meeting
 - 17 respondents - “Yes, I support the use of polytechnic in our mission, vision and other documents”
 - 6 respondents - “Yes, I would support the use of polytechnic in the University’s name”
 - 31 respondents - “No, I do not support the use of polytechnic in University documents”
 - 9 respondents - “I am neutral regarding the use of polytechnic”
 - 10 respondents - “I do not know enough about the use of the term to make a judgement”
 - See attached document for respondents’ comments

Old Business—

Constitutional Amendment Voting Results

- Robin Kapavik shared the results of the 2 constitutional amendments ballots
 - Resolution #02-03-2017-000002B passed 51-3 (94.44%)
 - Resolution #02-03-2017-000003 passed 52-10 (83.87%)

2nd Vote Resolution-

- Library Committee Resolution #03-03-2017-000001
 - The provost reminded everyone that Pru Morris has stepped in as Interim Director of the Library & Archive. He emphasized that the library is an archive and will be developing a collections policy. He said he will work with Pru to set up a taskforce to write a policy statement.
 - The resolution passed 11 to 0
 - The amendment will now go out to faculty in a ballot vote

Emeritus Policy

- Committee members include Jenny Wilson, Kathy Voges, and Robin Kapavik.
 - Robin shared that they compared all TAMU System schools and found that some have very specific policies and others have no stated policy.
 - Cynthia Matson clarified that the policy written by the committee would only apply to Faculty Emeritus status (since it was mentioned that other universities' policies covered other Emeritus positions).
 - Ed Westermann asked about the benefits of Emeritus status. Robin Kapavik stated that other universities offered library privileges, opportunities to serve on committees, a parking space, and office space (as deemed available by department chairs and/or deans).
 - Robin Kapavik stated that she will post the comparison in the Senate Blackboard shell for comment with final policy presentation at the May meeting.

Recommendation for Merit Policy Vote

- Theresa Dorel and Cory Ross addressed the Faculty Merit Policy Statement
 - KC Kalmbach shared that several A&S faculty members have asked her for Senate clarification about this sentence, "These committees will meet in all years, regardless of whether merit pools have been established." Ed Westermann clarified that it will be the Faculty Evaluations Committees in place every year; however, the work of that annual committee will result in merit during the years that merit funding is available.
 - KC Kalmbach also stated that probationary and post-tenure reviews are separate at most universities.
 - Ed Westermann asked if merit meant a lump sum payment or an amount attached to one's base salary? Theresa Dorel mentioned that it may be either as defined in the policy (Merit Salary Raise and/or Merit Payment).
 - Once those questions were answered, Kevin Barton motioned for a vote to accept the Rule Statement as presented. His motion was seconded by Carolyn Green. The motion passed with 10 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstention

Policy Draft for College Guidelines for Evaluation

- Saved for the next meeting **New Business**—

Writing Across the Curriculum Proposal Endorsement

- Amy Porter shared that the WAC committee met with faculty for 2 workshops, piloted 11 classes in the fall, and was here today to request the Faculty Senate to endorse a Resolution for a Writing-Intentional Course Proposal that would go before the University Curriculum Committee in the fall.

- KC Kalmbach asked if support from Writing Center was already in place? She asked if students would prefer professional tutors (in addition to peer tutors), and if there was a chance of that happening? Katie Bridgman answered that positions are available for professional tutors and specific support can be built into the program.
- KC Kalmbach asked if the writing center was adequately supported for this proposal, and Katie Bridgman responded in the affirmative.
- Ed Westermann mentioned the 4 requirements and asked about students coming in with some of those classes already? Katie Bridgman & Amy Porter both shared that there is already flexibility and substitutions/exceptions if needed.
- Concerning the class size cap at 20, Kevin Barton asked where the current caps are set. He expressed a concern for space to accommodate more sections, as well as money and personnel. Katie responded that the current caps are at 24. Amy Porter added that there is not currently enough space, but the committee is trying to look to future and phase in this model by 2020. Kevin Barton suggested the use of 2 instructors per section with 20 students per instructor. They could co-teach in a larger setting, which would assist in the grading load if that is the main concern for smaller class sizes.
- Ed Westermann responded that this is a great proposal, but there is a need to see a budget, space requirements, etc. He asked who should/could do that? Mike O'Brien stated that he doesn't think that's necessary at this time; we can figure out how to get what's needed; programs should drive the space & budget, not the other way around; request/propose what is needed academically and if monies/space is not available, then it can be scaled back or plans put in place to find the monies/space.
- Kevin Barton recommend changing cap of student sections to caps per instructor. Katie Bridgman suggested that perhaps programs/colleges can choose what's best for them.
- KC Kalmbach specified in last paragraph the level of professional tutors.
- Cynthia Matson stated that the bigger issue is student learning – not cost.
- Caroline O'Quinn made a motion to vote on the resolution with the following change in the last line of the Resolution, "...the Faculty Senate endorses the concept of the attached draft with commentary from the Senate for a Writing-Intentional..."
- Kevin Barton seconded the motion. The Resolution passed 11 to 0.

Writing Intentional Program & Experiential Learning/Service Learning recommendations

- Amy shared the proposed resolution for faculty senate endorsement & attached recommendations for course designation approval

- KC Kalmbach remarked that the university is creating requirements, but is not coordinating those requirements
- Mike O'Brien stated that this should be faculty driven
- Ed Westermann agreed that there should be a faculty led committee that should approve course designations whatever high impact practice it may be
- Lorrie Webb clarified the super committee originally wanted students to complete 4 high impact practices, then compromised with 3
- In response, Caroline O'Quinn asked if students would really be denied graduation if they have 120 coursework hours, but not all 3 required high impact practices.
- Lorrie Webb reminded the senate that all degree plans had been modified to include the high impact practices.
- The recommendation is to invite Edwin/committee to present their proposal to Senate in May and to suggest to Edwin that he align his committee and process with WAC.

Adjourn to special session at 1:00