

Faculty Senate Meeting
December 3, 2021
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MINUTES

WebEx Link:

<https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m8ec8ab391a68794d39ded14ef281e52e>

In Attendance: Adrianna Santos, Alana Collins, Amber Graham, April Najjaj, Bob Shelton, Brandon Earwood, Brenda Rushing, Bryan Bayles, Cherylynn Moody, Chin-Yen Liu, Claire Nolasco, Courtney Bobb-Meilinger, Daniel Delgado, Deirdre McDonald, Denise Trevino, Elizabeth Hasseler, Emily Bliss-Zaks, Esther Garza, Eun Kwon, Heather Olague, Ho Huynh, Hsiao-Ping Wu, Jackson Ayres, Jacquelyn Traeger, James Finley, Jimena Guerra, Joseph Simpson, Karen Kohler, Katherine Espinoza, Katherine Skrabanek, Keming Li, Kimberly Grotewold, Leonard Love, Malena Salazar, Malin Lilley, Marcos Del Hierro, Mari Fuentes-Martin, Maria V. Acevedo-Aquino, Mariya Davis, Matthew Mangum, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Nadeem Malik, Pride Abongwa, Ramona Pittman, Rebekah Piper, Richard Green, Robert Alonzo, Sabina de Vries, Sandra Lara, Sandy DeGrassi, Sarah Flotte, Sarah Pollock, Scott Gage, Tamara Hinojosa, Tara Korzekwa, Thomas Beaumont, Vincent Creazzo, Walter Den, Xingyuan Fei, Zechun Cao

Meeting Called to Order at 11:31am

Approval of Minutes: Joseph Simpson called to vote on approval of the minutes. Vote:

- Yes: 17
- No: 0
- Abstain: 2

Administrative Updates

- a. Provost (out of town) and President (at the Toyota Roll-Off Ceremony) were absent.
- b. Joseph Simpson
 - University Resources Committee, URC: Has requested a holistic review of the budget. Funds for Professional Development were not added to the formula (to the permanent budget). The President and CFO will present the budget review during the next faculty senate meeting in February 2022.
 - Parking: Issues with Lot 2's buy-back option. Both, the CFO and the Parking committee are aware of the issues, including those affecting the adjunct faculty. The hope is that the CFO, parking committee, and senate can find a solution without needing a resolution.
 - Learning Management System, LMS: The President, Provost, and URC committee have been asked to review Blackboard and to consider updating and/or changing it.
 - Faculty Pay Study: A survey will be emailed to faculty next semester. The committee is in the process of hiring a consultant.
 - \$4 million debt: Where did the money go?
 - Legislative Appropriation Request: Biennial 10% back to the state
 - Projections on enrollment were overestimated.
 - Benefits not included in the budget for new hires

- Chairs not moved from 9-month contract to a 12-month contract.
- Pandemic-related cuts
- c. Student Success and Engagement update, by Mari Fuentes-Martin
 - The PowerPoint presentation discussed:
 - The importance of receiving the Seal of Excelencia. Other institutions included: Fresno State and University of Central Florida, among others.
 - Lessons learned in the process of applying for the Seal of Excelencia, including the need to reducing silos and engaging in strategic planning.
 - [Transformation Accelerator \(TAC\)](#), an AASCU initiative created to support Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and low-income students. TAMUSA is 1 of the 15 selected institutions to be part of the program. Timeline: fall 2021 through fall 2023.
 - Transfer Student Success and Equity: TAMUSA will partner with Palo Alto College to support community college students complete their bachelors.
 - First-Gen Forward: Cohort of institutions supporting first-gen students.
 - Faculty can now access students' preferred names/personal pronouns through Jagwire:
 - Navigate to Faculty > Resources > Faculty Course Information > Preferred Names/Personal Pronouns Class List.

Old Business

1. Update Evaluation of Chairs and Deans ad hoc committee, by Megan Wise de Valdez
 - The faculty read and discussed the draft of the evaluation tool. The instrument is meant to be useful not punitive. Questions related to the process, not the document, included: Who will be analyzing the data? who will oversee the data collection and analysis? how will the findings be shared? how will the findings be used? The committee will continue to meet to discuss the process.
2. Faculty Handbook Draft Feedback, by Matthew Mangum
 - The faculty had no comments about the revised handbook. Matthew Mangum motioned to move the draft to the Provost. Sabina de Vries seconded the motion.
Vote:
 - Yes: 19
 - No: 1
 - Abstain: 0
3. Update on from ad hoc investigative committee on Bilingual Education,
 - James Finley: 5 faculty + 5 administrators were interviewed. The committee is not ready to share the report. The committee will share the report with the interviewees for a member-check process before sharing the document with the faculty.
 - Leonard Love: The preliminary findings include: a) Disagreement in the events across parties; b) Concerns with lack of shared governance that could impact all, not just one program; c) The moves (or changes) were made by the administration; d) The fundamental changes were not made by experts in the field; e) Urgency; faculty was given days to make changes; f) Quick deadline to investigate; g) Administration moving forward despite the 30-day moratorium.

- Daniel Delgado: The preliminary implications include: a) A Faculty Senate Special Session on shared governance to explore faculty's understanding of the concept (input vs decision making); b) Training to practice shared governance; c) A standing Faculty Senate committee for shared governance; d) A meeting to solve the problem that will include the Bilingual program faculty, administrators, and a third-party mediator.
- Daniel Delgado motioned to create a Faculty Senate Special Session on shared governance in the Spring. Thomas Beaumont seconded the motion. Joseph Simpson explained that a vote was not necessary. Joseph Simpson committed to hold the Special Session in the Spring. Daniel Delgado withdrew the motion.

New Business

1. Resolution to Retain the Office of Graduate Studies in the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs, Sarah Flotte

- Sarah Flotte read the resolution and motioned to adopt as read. Pride Abongwa seconded the motion.
- Discussion: A couple of senators recommended to include all the data as part of the resolution. The full report could be attached to the resolution as an appendix or footnote.
- Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to amend to include any and all data results of the survey in the resolution. Sarah Flotte accepted the amendment. Vote:
 - Yes: 16
 - No: 2
 - Abstain: 1
- Vote on resolution as amended.
 - Yes: 21
 - No: 1
 - Abstain: 1
- Sarah Flotte motioned to extend the meeting ten minutes. Leonard Love seconded the motion. Vote:
 - Yes: 22
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0

2. Resolution on Ad Hoc Committee Drafting University Procedures Concerning Visiting and Adjunct Policies, by Matthew Mangum

- Matthew Mangum read and motioned to accept the resolution. No discussion. Any representative through a volunteering process. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion. Vote:
 - Yes: 20
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1

3. Resolution on Statement on Final Exam Scheduling, by Matthew Mangum

- Matthew Mangum read and motioned to accept resolution as read. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.
- Discussion: A few grammatical edits were fixed. Faculty pointed to a consistent semester failure to address the issue. Vote:

- Yes: 20
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.