

Texas A&M University – San Antonio
Faculty Senate Minutes
Meeting of Friday October 6, 2017
Kinesiology Lab, Madla 134
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate 10-6-2017

Senators Attending: Douglas Carter, Jack Ayers, Dan Glaser, Lawrence Scott, Suhko Lee, Rodolfo Valdez, Amy Porter, Claire Nolasco, Bob Shelton, Deirdre McDonald, Ann Bliss, Robert Vinaja, Jenny Wilson, Marina Narvaez, Deidre McDonald, Andrew Sanders, Gilbert Barrera, Corinna Ross

Visitors in Attendance: Katie Bridgeman, Megan Wise de Valdez, Gary Spindle, Mike O'Brien

Welcome by President Amy Porter.

Approval of Minutes was seconded without changes. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Updates

President Matson: She begins by reasserting her mission for shared governance. Primary focus is on the implantation of the strategic plan. She will bring handouts over if Porter doesn't have them to showcase this. She feels robustness because of the increase in students to 6500 students. It is up about 1,000 students and she feels that in the space and in the community, the campus. B. Spindle has been asked to chair a task force around transportation and parking. There is much talk about parking challenges and issues at the university. All in the cabinet will be looking at their findings.

President C. Matson and her team are refining the enrollment management strategy. Enrollment is critical for fiscal areas of the community. The best minds are working on this. O'Brien is looking at our academic admissions standards. President's commission on equity (\$50,000) is meeting and will be giving an equity statement soon to this group. In addition, there is a strategic planning fund for \$500,000 which will be showcased in an email to university faculty in the coming week. University finances and resources are being worked on with the Resource Allocation Committee. The budget has been delayed because Matson needed to look at the special funding due to its possibility of being cut. She asserts that the university needs to look at how they are generating revenue and work within the State of Texas. It requires changes. One change of many is the recommendation that for this year's compensation pool, it will be happening one time, not adjusting to the base of the faculty or staff salary. This helps to balance our budget and hopefully will not need to happen again.

Question asked by R. Valdez, "From a strategic standpoint, how will faculty support the Strategic Plan implementation?" Matson answers that planning committees, the Senate has reps all will bring forward issues. They can bring forward policy, articles, constitution and make

documents such as that that helps to stabilize the governance. More senators mean more voices. Senators need to take things back to their respective areas and share so that there is a dialogue.

A. Porter asks if we have questions and asserts that there were questions about research. O'Brien answers that the university has set aside \$200,000 to set up a research area and committee. 6-7 faculty members will be elected. Proposals for \$5,000 to be used to seed opportunities will be disseminated to faculty in the coming weeks. The committee will make recommendations as to what they will fund and what has long term prospects for the university. O'Brien asserts that this is for research and creative activity and will start this semester. There will be a detailed summary from the panel if you do not get the seed money.

S. Lee asks, "Can a collaboration be sought wherein one person asks for seed money of \$5000 and then another, and the total is \$10,000 of a \$20,000 budget?" O'Brien says there might be a cap on monies but that they would need to look at that.

Provost O'Brien: In regards to academic admission standards: He explains that in faculty there are two worlds within TAMUSA. One side is the tier one institution that we came from, the other is this campus that is underserved. His question states, "What is going to happen to narrow the gap between the standards that we set but the students that might not meet that? Looking at TAMUSA students, 31% of our students were on academic probation. Some feel it is unethical to take money for another semester if we know that the students are not going to make it. He says he doesn't "want to leave anyone behind and we don't want to do developmental stuff. We don't want to get in that game. We would charge money and those don't count." He asks, "Why not work with the Alamo Colleges? They love the idea of co-enrollment. You are going to take these developmental classes but be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA." O'Brien says that we are not open enrollment. We require 2.0/3.0. He furthers that TAMUSA must raise the standards that we have but help those that we know would do well with a bit of help. To do this, Mahan will hire 4 people to help students know that if they do A, B, and C they will get to TAMUSA when they are at Alamo College. It will take 18 months to take effect. "If we want to take ourselves seriously and do the best for our students, we have to do better," he says.

C. Matson: I support him 100%. This is a lens on equity. The pattern that O'Brien describes does take into account equity. To not leave anyone behind. This is a strengthening of the mission for success. The provost is really focused on the early high school model. She says that even the HS in our communities that are at the top 25%, have students that aren't really ready for college, but it deals with equity. There must be pathways through the Alamo colleges. We have to elevate those that need it.

O'Brien: Many students have never been out of Bexar County! He asserts that TAMUSA needs to set up studies abroad. 20% of our students need to be going abroad. Many haven't been to other places in Texas.

B. Spindle: A pavilion is still in the works and the areas outside will be “spruced up.” The size of the parking lots will be doubled. The taskforce concerning parking and transportation met last week. Faculty parking was discussed. Tom Gaffrey will be putting a report together (an expert on parking). Discussion will center around the master plan and next steps. Also, mid-term and long-term goals. He says that there are several questions such as, “If we keep growing, will we need to look at parking garages? Do we have enough ADA parking? What should we charge for parking that is close in or far out?” There is the new classroom building which is a 25-million-dollar building. Student fees are going up 3.7%.

A. Porter asks about the “Space and Use committee.” Spindle says that committee will be looked at.

D. McDonald mentions that public transportation is an issue. It took her over 3 hours to get here. Spindle says it will be discussed.

President Matson stands and addresses that she is working on development of another building (one building a year) and that Spindle and her are working the development of the front of University way.

R. Valdez: Uber or Lyft drivers. Is there a way to use the already consistent drivers, partnering with Verano or another, to privatize a parking lot so it need not come through the use of university funds? At the moment, says Spindle, no. Verano is not interested.

Latina Leadership Institute: November 9.

Porter: SECC campaign is going on. Porter was placed on this committee to help improve enrollment. 40% giving and \$20,000 given is the goal.

Academic Advising reports to the provost.

T&P procedures, not policy. Faculty Senate and the Provost will create a taskforce.. This would not make new policy but instead, think about what will be needed as the university grows. For example, a letter from someone outside the university for a promotion packet.

Final exam schedule has gone out. Lee asks why it is that the schedule has to be different than our class schedule. Porter says as we gave longer times for exams it had to change. The issue is that there wasn’t enough time to put it on the syllabus. Ross says that it will become more standard.

Porter: Thinking about having a session on shared governance. This would discuss where are we doing well and where are we struggling as a faculty senate and university. She will put something up on TownSquare as well to inquire about this session. She says that shared governance can be hard and it is easy to fall in to patterns wherein someone just makes decisions. There might be feelings that faculty need to share. Valdez says that we need to make

a space that houses the minutes or proof of the meetings, proof of the decisions. Glaser: When a committee meets, there needs to be a place to post the minutes of the meeting. The Bylaws says that we should be doing that and we need to set that up a place for that. A. Sanders says that two sessions would be good for this. Porter will send out an announcement through Blackboard about them and reminds us that this is just a Senate led meeting, not a Senate meeting.

Old Business

Room Scheduling Issues

C. Nolasco: According to the BB inquiry there are 2 main areas of concern about the rooms: the signing of rooms is not consistent for the types of classes being held there. For example, a computer class needing a lab is in a seminar while there is one that is in the computer class that doesn't need them. Many faculty shared needs that are not being met and rooms are not correct for the needs.

Secondly, the back to back scheduling of classes in different rooms in different buildings. Two suggestions were made: back to back classes should be scheduled in the same building and/or that the university registrar can use codes to describe the rooms such that those needing rooms that are specific to their needs can request them. We need to work on logistics when the COW (Computers on Wheels) comes. It can take time from the next professor as they need to pick up the computers and work through them.

Glaser speaks to the ADA needs of professors being met as well. Example hearing or anxiety.

HIPs Committee

Sanders: HIPs Committee met with all 5 representatives. This committee needs all colleges to send them currently used practices in internships, experiential learning and service learning and answer the following questions:

A: What are we doing already in our respective programs?

B. Who do we know that are doing these with them?

C. What would the ideal list of those things that we think we should be offering our students?

This should be sent to Edwin, gathered by the chairs and offered by each department.

Extra credit policy

J. Wilson says queries about the extra credit policies asking other departments and classes to share what are the requirements for extra credit. Some classes have up to 40% being allocated to extra credit if needed. She asks the senate to think about if there are policies for extra credit Are faculty speaking to the people that are offering the extra credit? This might be something that the faculty senate wants to make a recommendation about.

Grade appeals

A. Sanders says that instead of the old paper that professors do the work to prove a grade or appeal, it needs to be a student driven process online wherein they explain. "This paper system

is really bad," he says. A. Sanders says that the digitization of the grade appeal for the final grade must happen. As the university grows, there will become more and more and there must be a way to make the process fair, legal and easy for professors.

Food waste

A. Sanders asserts that the university has much food waste. For example, Search Committees have much waste. Departments want to know if there is some way for us to donate that food. A. Porter mentions that this request needs to go to Risk Management.

Appreciation day for janitorial staff & maintenance

A. Sanders would like to make the request that we make a space for employees on Jaguar Pride that introduces them and lets them be known to the faculty. Porter will speak to Art Olague, the Staff Council President, and the contractors and see if they would be willing to come together to figure this out. Dr. Spindle and Mick Deeds can help to do that.

Issues with Rooms/Scheduling Speakers/Workshops A. Porter suggests that we think about the priority access in regards to this. When are rooms being used? If it is hybrid, then they might not be there the whole time and the scheduler does not know what times they would be utilizing the room. B. Shelton says he has to go the admin assistant to get a room. J. Wilson says we have access to the rooms, but not those that are hybrid, or in other departments. They are always full. R. Vinaja mentions that it would be nice to see the whole schedule and really use the time effectively.

Action to Dismiss at 1:03, Dismissed at 1:04pm.