Faculty Senate Meeting
5 Apr 2013
12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.
Student Center Rm. 231

I. Call to Order by President Townsend at 12:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call, Present: Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. H. Mandal, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. M. Moran, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. G. Potter, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. M. Vargas

III. Our guests were given the floor:

Dr. Arenaz:

- The Regents are currently looking across the system at our processes for annual review of faculty for promotion and tenure and for post-tenure review. They are also concerned about the quality and the number of applicants for faculty positions during recruitment. This year TAMIU had 11 people who went up for promotion and/or tenure; 8 were recommended for tenure (pending Board approval), 2 promoted to Full Professor and 1 application for tenure was denied. The Regents seem to be concerned that we are tenuring everybody who applies. In the last 4 years 18 out of 47 faculty who stayed here were tenured.

- Our enrollment figures for summer and for fall are down when compared to this time last year. This could be a real problem, because the Legislature is trying to do a 3.5% budget increase for next year for all universities, but the amount each university will actually receive will be based on credit hour production. If that drops, we could get far less than the 3.5%.

Minita Ramirez and Laura Elizondo:

- The Office of Financial Aid has to do a yearly report and are concerned about the reporting of students who receive an earned F for a course as opposed to an F for nonattendance. If it is an F for nonattendance, then the Office of Financial Aid has to report the last day of attendance for that student. If the student received an F for nonattendance in a course and received financial aid (any Title 4 funding - roughly 80% of our students) then they must return a portion of that aid based on their date of last attendance in a course. If they don’t return it, then we (the University) have to and that money comes out of student scholarship funds.

- It was suggested that Banner be altered to reinstate the NF “F for nonattendance” to assist the Office of Financial Aid in making their report.

- It was announced that the scholarship deadline for currently enrolled students is June 1st.

- It was asked to please advise your students to take their classes here and not elsewhere.
Myra Hernandez:

- We have a university policy in place that the faculty are required to report plagiarism and cheating. Samples of the various form letters for reporting have been placed on the Honor Council website. It was announced that faculty have 10 days to report a case and reported students have 10 days to repeal a report.

IV. Old Business

- The Provost was requested to look over the Faculty’s Evaluations of Administrators prior to distributing them to the Faculty. He had an objection to a question on his evaluation because it ‘does not provide adequate feedback’; “Demonstrates and communicates clear understanding of the interests of the Faculty with regards to Academic Affairs.” It was decided that this question be altered to a similar question used in the President’s evaluation.

- It was suggested that a question be added to the Faculty Senate Evaluation to address the areas of general concern of the Faculty.

- Review of the Teacher of the Year / Scholar of the Year criteria. It was requested that we send an email to our respective Deans to begin this procedure, which was suppose to have been completed by March 31st. It was mentioned that the Provost would like to see the Scholar of the Year encompass a larger body of work and not just what an individual did over the course of a year. And for those nominated for Teacher of the Year, they should be evaluated by some group/committee based on demonstrating their teaching ability. It was suggested that the Senate come up with a fair set of criteria that could be applied to all Colleges for these awards and that this should be accomplished by no later than November of this year so that it could be implemented in a timely fashion next academic year. Discussion proceeded on the amount of time that should be looked at for each award and it was suggested that 1 year was sufficient for Teacher of the Year and 5 years for Scholar of the Year. It was requested that this be made a priority for both Faculty Moral and Handbook Committees.

- Discussion and possible action of changes in the Post-Tenure Review section of the Handbook. It was suggested that the Handbook Committee modify the wording in this section to better clarify what conditions would initiate placing a faculty member on a Professional Development Plan. This was voted on and approved unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

- Handbook Revision Committee: It was announced that the nine amendments previously voted on and approved by the Senate have been incorporated into the Handbook.
VI. New Business

- It was announced that nominations for Executive positions or for replacements for Senate members whose terms are up should be sent by email to any of the current Senate Executive Committee members by May 1st so that voting can take place during the May Senate meeting.

- The documents for the System policy 12.07 employees for the Library and for Nursing were sent out by the Handbook Committee to the Senate for review. These were voted on for inclusion in the Handbook and approved unanimously.

- It was requested that sick leave indiscretions and inconsistencies be added as an agenda item to the May meeting.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.