Faculty Senate Meeting
December 6, 2013
12:06 hrs - 13:57 hrs

WHTC Room 125

I. Call to Order by President Dr. A. Ramirez at 12:06 hrs.

II. Roll Call, Present: Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. H. Mandal, Dr. L. Manganaro, J. Maxstadt, Dr. A. Moran, Dr. Q. Ni, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Mr. B. Townsend, and Dr. M. Vargas.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A vote was taken to approve the Minutes of November’s Senate meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

Mr. Garcia:

The proposal to change the grading scale to a 13 point system was discussed. Several systems were proposed. It was agreed that Dr. Manganaro will write a draft proposal. The alternative systems will be put to the consideration of the faculty.

Dr. Keck:

Some expectations and procedures of January’s faculty retreat were notified. It was pointed out that the retreat offered a unique opportunity for faculty involvement in a conversation about the future of our University. In addition, several past, and ongoing, new course formats were referred. It was highlighted the need to exercise creativity in generating novel teaching forms. Furthermore, it was stressed the need to generate proper record keeping of students’ attendance and performance in order to get, and comply with, federal government funding.

Dr. Arenaz:

The Senate was asked to make the provision of external letters a requirement for promotion and tenure. Borrowing from business models, it was commented the desirability of backward integration in the supply chain, namely, strengthening working relationships with school districts.
V. Faculty Senate President Report

Dr. Ramirez indicated that he will continue informing faculty about the executive council meetings. He presented data on student enrollment for spring 2013 and spring 2014 as well as on the number of students expected to graduate in the December 2013 graduation ceremonies.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Graduate Faculty Status TAMIU Policy. It was agreed that it is not necessary to change the Faculty Handbook to include fixed-term (12.07) faculty as graduate faculty given that there is the “temporary” category.

B. It was highlighted the need to clearly specify the functions of the distance education committee and the technology advisory committee. In addition, it was stressed the importance of engaging faculty in the conversation as well as involving faculty in decision making concerning information technology and distance education issues. The need for a greater degree of accountability was emphasized.

VII. New Business

A. The request to require external letters for promotion and tenure was discussed. It was agreed that checking regional universities on this regard may be helpful. The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with this task. It was also agreed that the Faculty Handbook Committee will write alternative proposals.