

## Faculty Senate Meeting

2 November 2012

12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

WHTC 125

- I. Call to Order by President Townsend at 12:03 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. Muñoz, Dr. Q. Ni, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. San Miguel, Dr. M. Vargas
- III. Our guest Lisa Paul, TAMIU Compliance Officer, was given the floor.

The Compliance Officer's role is to establish a culture where rules and policies are known and understood through increased communication among individuals and academic and administrative groups. Also to compile, monitor and mitigate possible risks dealing with such items as campus security, problems with recruiting and retaining faculty, risks involving faculty/student research, what constitutes a proper excused absence among students... etc.

It was announced that there is a link on the TAMIU web server known as "Ethics Point" (Under the Texas A&M System Risk & Misconduct Hotline), where people can submit anonymous complaints if they feel they have been mistreated by administration or others in the system.

The Compliance Office is located in Killam Library, Room 270B.

Ms. Vivian Garcia volunteered to be the Senate Representative for the Compliance Committee.

- IV. Dr. Ramirez presented the Senate with a summary of the Nov. 2nd Provost's Executive Council Meeting. The details of this meeting were sent to All Faculty in an email dated Nov. 2nd and included:
  - Judith Zaffirini Appointment - Judith Zaffirini's recent appointment as chair of the Senate Committee on Government Organization by the Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.
  - Ten Thousand Dollar Degree
  - Cousera/UT System Partnership
    - Dr. Norris was asked to call a meeting of the Distance Education Committee to discuss how this partnership might affect the TAMIU Faculty and their courses.
  - New Undergraduate Multi-Disciplinary Degree
  - Restructuring of TAMIU Bi-National Center
  - Undergraduate Academic and Professional Advising
  - External Reviewers for Program Review
  - Grade Submission Process
  - Spring 2013 Registration - begins on October 29, 2012, with registration for athletes, honor students, and seniors starting on October 25th and 26th.
  - The next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 28th.

## V. Committee Reports:

### - Handbook Review Committee:

The Handbook Committee did not meet, but Mr. Maxstadt reported that the section on 'Approval of Graduate Faculty' in the Handbook had been rewritten to include the revisions requested by Dean Brown and was sent to him for review. Also the section on 'Due Process' was sent to the Provost for his opinion on the legalities of notification and is pending his review. It was suggested that this section also be sent to our new Compliance Officer for comments.

The Senate was presented with a document for approval titled "Fixed Term Professional Track Librarians, Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library" that the Library had compiled for their 1207 employees. After discussion of an individual's option to repeatedly switch between tenure and professional track (Items #4 and #6 under 'Appointment'), it was voted by the Senate with an **8 in favor and 4 against** that these items be combined and reworded to place a limit on the number of times a person can switch tracks. It was also noted that there was a similar set of items in a document previously submitted by the School of Nursing and Health Sciences and approved by the Senate. It was requested that these items be revisited for similar rewording.

It was requested from the Handbook Committee that all of the previous changes that were recently voted on and approved by the Senate be forwarded to Dr. Rhodes so that they can be presented to the Faculty for e-vote approval.

- Academic Affairs Oversight Committee - did not meet.

- Assessment Committee

Did not meet, but members of the Assessment Committee have met with the University Program Assessment and Review Committee (PARC) to begin training on the new WEAVE web application software which will soon be used to compile all assessment reports throughout the University.

- Faculty Morale & Welfare did not meet, but requested a meeting in two Mondays.

- Budget & Finance Committee - the committee is meeting at the University level next week.

- University Ethics Committee - did not meet.

- Committee on Committees - did not meet.

Dr. Muñoz and Dr. Norris were requested to call meetings of the Technology Advisory and the Distance Education Committees respectively.

## VI. Other Business

In a meeting between the Provost and Senate Representatives, the Provost was, apparently, under the misconception that our Handbook states that in order for a tenured individual to be considered to be deficient in their duties (Teaching, Research and Service), their average departmental evaluation scores in all three areas for two consecutive years must be below the minimum. Our Handbook actually states that if you are deficient in any one of the three areas for two consecutive years you may be placed under post-tenure review.

The Provost also stated in this meeting that he thought it would be a good idea for all Faculty to have a web page, but he feared that Faculty would resist this idea. After waiting for two months, the Senate webmaster has received pictures from Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. G. Potter, Ms. V. Garcia, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. J. Norris, and Dr. C. San Miguel; *less than half the Senate members.*

There is currently a case pending where a tenured faculty member received two negative yearly evaluations and is under the process of possibly being placed under post-tenure review. The Senate member who is charged with chairing the post-tenure review committee for this individual is Dr. Ramirez. The faculty member has requested in writing of the Senate, contrary to any guidelines or procedures in our Handbook, to have Dr. Ramirez recuse himself from the Post-Tenure Review Committee. A motion was made and seconded that the Senate endorse Dr. Ramirez in his leadership role as chair of this committee. **This motion was approved unanimously.**

There were also a series of letters sent to the Senate Secretary from this faculty member addressed to individual Senate members from last year's Faculty Senate. Since the information contained within these letters was deemed by the Senate to be inappropriate to individuals outside of the Post-Tenure Review Committee, the Senate Secretary was charged with presenting these letters to the Provost.

VII. Meeting was adjourned 2:13 p.m.

**If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes and send a picture of yourself to your web master at [mbennett@tamiu.edu](mailto:mbennett@tamiu.edu).**

