

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 4, 2013

12:07 hrs - 15:03 hrs

WHTC Room125

I. Call to Order by President Ramirez at 12:07 hrs.

II. Roll Call, **Present:** Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. L. Manganaro, Dr. A. Moran, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. G. Potter, Dr. L. Prieto, and Dr. G. Salinas.

III. Our guests were given the floor:

Dr. Arenaz:

- Dr. Arenaz presented the following University update:
The 2014 spring semester will start January 22. On January 21, there will be a presentation by Mr. J. Selingo which will be followed by a faculty conversation about the future of higher education at TAMIU. A series of events aimed at maximizing the number of credit hours for the next biennium have taken place at different University units. Such events will continue in the near future. TAMIU will start, in Fall 2015, a joint bachelor degree program on Occupational Safety with TAMU, College Station. As a result of an ongoing conversation with College Station, there is the potential to create more joint degrees. The lower-division Academic Course Guide Manual includes new course descriptions and learning goals. Faculty was invited to review and comment upon such descriptions and outcomes. The fall semester 2013 had a 3% increase in semester credit hours. There may be a 2% merit increase.

Dr. Stephen Duffy:

- The Quality Enhancement Program committee in undertaking a series of assessment activities required for SACS' accreditation will meet, among others, with the Student Government Association officers and attend faculty meetings to fine-tune the major categories to be used as well as the best methodologies for assessing each category. .

Ms. Veronica Martinez:

- A new faculty teaching evaluation instrument was piloted last summer. Such instrument includes 20 questions which load into seven constructs. Some advantages and disadvantages of the proposed instrument were discussed. The administration is proposing to adopt this new instrument. It was agreed that it is necessary, given the implications such an evaluation system has, to have a deep and thoughtful conversation

about the proposed change among faculty and administrators. Ms. Martinez will present, in future Senate meetings, detailed information about the constructs and further expand on the rationale for the proposed change.

Ms. Lisa Paul, Dr. Jeffrey Brown, and Dr. John Kilburn:

- Policy updates were provided on the following issues: export controls, faculty consulting and external employment, and campus security. Faculty may need to be informed and trained as well as follow required rules and regulations. TAMIU's website hotline on fraud, risk and misconduct was briefly presented.

Mr. Griz Zimmermann:

- Gave a presentation concerning some athletics department's affairs. He is willing to provide detailed information if asked.

Dr. Frances Rhodes:

- Informed that nominations were received for every slot in the University committees. Faculty vote approved the fixed-term Senate membership.

Dr. Alfredo Ramirez:

- Indicated that he will continue sending his notes on the University Executive Council meetings. Met with Dr. Keck, Dr. Arenaz and Mr. Castillo and discussed some of the Formula Funding Taskforce's recommendations. Met with Dr. Gaskins. It is expected that, in the near future, the nature and charges of the information technology and distance learning university committees will be further clarified. He will attend, at the end of October, the meeting of the Council of Faculty Senate presidents. He will seek to obtain useful information from other Senates about the post-tenure review process. In particular, it is necessary, in our case, to increase consistency and feasibility of some professional development plans. He asked faculty to suggest other issues to take to the meeting of the Council of Faculty Senate presidents.

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Action Items- TAMIU Faculty Handbook Revisions

- Concerning the Graduate Council:

1) On the wording of its composition, it shall include *“a representative from the library”*, and

2) On the wording of its membership, it shall read as follows:*“all members of the Graduate Council shall be members of the Graduate Faculty.”*

The above changes were deemed editorial. A vote was taken and the changes were approved unanimously.

- On the Graduate Council’s Full Membership two somewhat related issues were discussed, namely, who may be a member and perhaps the need to add wording to include fixed-term faculty. Issues discussed included, among others, the need to balance quality and pragmatic needs, allowing membership for all faculty with a Ph.D., and the need to protect the merit of tenured and tenure-track faculty. It was agreed that the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee will write a proposal on this regard.

- On the Handbook’s section on Research Information and Guidelines, Copyright subsection, it was proposed to remove the old citation and to add the proposed one: *“Issues regarding copyright and ownership of intellectual property created while in the employ of Texas A&M International University are covered in TAMUS Policy 17.01, “Intellectual Property management and Commercialization.” Particular attention should be paid to section 12.01.02, “Ownership of Intellectual Property and Tangible research Property (TRP).”* Such change was voted on and approved unanimously.

- On the Faculty Constitution, Article 1. Organization of the Faculty, Section 1. Membership, section b. Voting Members of the Faculty, a proposal was presented to add the following: *“...., full-time fixed-term (12.07) faculty, and faculty with full-time appointments at the rank of instructor.”* Such change was voted on and approved unanimously.