

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 6, 2015
WHTC 215

I. Call to Order (time): 12:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Dr. Marvin Bennett, Mr. David Bogus, Dr. George Clarke, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Ms. Destine Holmgreen, Dr. Katie Lewis, Dr. Lynne Manganaro, Mr. John Maxstadt, Dr. David Milovich, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

Not present: Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, Ms. Marcela Morán, Dr. James Norris, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Maria Lourdes Viloría

Guests: Dr. Kevin Lindberg; Dr. Pablo Arenaz; Mr. Trevor Liddle

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, following minor corrections.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

Dr. Pablo Arenaz:

- Currently, the scheduled speaker for the fall 2015 commencement will be Sergio Alcocer, the current Undersecretary for North America from Mexico.
- The new building is going well, but still in the developmental stage.
- In the spring, 2016 semester, a new parking lot will be opened on the southwest side of campus.
- The Promotion and Tenure committee will meet November 20. There are four applicants this year, with an expected nine or ten next year.
- Merit salary increase letters will go out today or Monday and new amounts will be reflected in the December paychecks.
- Two new committees need to be created and be reflected in the Faculty Handbook- a curriculum committee and a catalog committee. Further information and description of the charge for each committee will be created and voted on for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook.

B. Kevin Lindberg:

The multidisciplinary degree initiative is going forward, and Dr. Lindbergh provided the Senate with an overview of what is currently happening. The student is allowed to create the multidisciplinary degree according to what they need, but it must meet certain requirements. In addition to taking the required core curriculum courses, the degree plan has to have three discrete concentrations with 15 hours of each concentration, and 20 hours of electives. The committee has approved various templates, which Dr. Lindbergh shared with the Senate providing suggestions for various plans that might be attractive to students, such as Business, Art, and Communication. It will, however, be up to the student to "sell" their proposed degree plan to any future employer as to its usefulness and preparation of the student.

C. Trevor Liddle

Associate VP for Administration, Trevor Liddle, shared the work of the campus carry committee with the Senate. The law has changed in Texas which requires public colleges and universities to allow anyone to carry a concealed weapon "cwc" on campus. Each campus is required to come up with a plan to allow cwc on campus in conformance with the law. The problem is that there is very little flexibility in the law. The law itself and information and statistics concerning the use of concealed weapons in Texas can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/campuscarry/index.shtml>

Concern was expressed regarding a student, or other person, being able to carry a gun on campus and using such gun in response to an emotional break. Katie Lewis mentioned that research reveals, in students K-12, that violence happens most often by people who have previously asked for help and didn't get it. She believes TAMTU faculty and personnel should have better training to recognize and deal with students who are at risk.

Mr. Liddle graciously agreed to speak at a forum for all faculty, sponsored by the Senate, having questions about this upcoming change on November 13, 2015.

D. William Nolen

Mr. Nolen made a presentation to the Senate which he made earlier in the week regarding integrating ethics into course work.

IV. Faculty Senate President Report on Executive Council Meeting-

While most of the information from the Executive Council Meetings has been previously provided to faculty via the email memos, Dr. Clarke spoke about a few things that are in the spotlight of the Executive Council:

1. The administration continues to urge faculty to take sick leave for things like doctor's appointments, even if the appointment is not during a time they have class. As long as the appointment is between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. faculty should document sick leave taken. Any appointment that occurs after 5:00 p.m. or on a day in which faculty are not required to be on campus, such as during semester break, would not have to be reported as sick leave.
2. The university is looking into presenting "signature courses" which would be a course covering a broad topic for freshmen.
3. TAMTU has been asked to be involved in the Yale National Initiative. This is a discipline related teaching to high school teachers over the summer. Selected disciplines would be involved with faculty teaching teachers from their field. It is a two week course and there would be a stipend for attending as well as teaching.

VI. Faculty Senate Vice-President Report on Provost Council Meetings

John Maxstadt did not have a report on this council, but stated that the new committees the Provost has requested to be created, and will be fleshed out for a vote in the December meeting.

VII. Reports from Committee Chairs

No reports were given.

VIII. New business

Kimber Palmer proposed an ad hoc committee to undertake the issue of creating avenues of advancement and promotion for fixed term faculty, John Maxstadt indicated this topic had arisen in previous years and that the Senate had asked of each college to provide their plan for such advancement. Only the College of Education and Nursing had responded. Seeing that there had not been any developments regarding this issue, Ms. Palmer moved that an ad hoc committee be formed, and volunteered to serve as chair. Frances Rhodes seconded the motion and the motion carried with majority vote.

Upon motion and second, the Senate voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.