

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 1, 2016
WHTC 215

I. Call to Order: 12:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Dr. Lynne Manganaro, Dr. Katie Lewis, Ms. Marcela Moran, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Mr. John Maxstadt, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. James Norris, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez, Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, Jr., Dr. George Clarke, Dr. David Milovich, Mr. David Bogus

Guests

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March, 2016 meeting will be reviewed at the May meeting.

IV. Our guest was given the floor:

Dr. Arenaz:

This coming school year will be a difficult year due to shortfalls in oil related revenue. Dr. Arenaz believes we will stay the same. The Committee has been formed: Drs. Lindberg, Hickey, Weitman; they will review proposals for Signature Courses for next Spring. The deadline to submit will be in the middle of May or June 2016. Interested faculty are encouraged to apply. The Speaker Series is currently being reviewed and a committee will be formed to determine how best to use the IBC Speaker Series Funds and combine it with the Sanchez Speaker Series Funds. They think it should be tied to the TAMIU QEP and attach them to the Signature Courses. Faculty teaching those courses can recommend speakers to speak on topics related to their Signature courses. The total number of speakers will likely be about the same. The big idea is to have research stimulated conversations with faculty and student.

An architectural firm has been identified to move forward with the design of the new building. Construction will begin early spring, 2017. The site is east of the LBV and would incorporate the machine shop as a lab that can be observed and to get more students excited about STEM. The greenhouse will be made smaller. New building will include one big auditorium (500 capacity) College of Education will not move. Committee will be put together to contribute to the design phase. The Graduate School will move to the second floor of the Zaffirini Building.

On-line Evaluation- Dr. Arenaz commented on the fact that 95% of the college students have a smart phone. It should not be a challenge to move this pilot phase forward.

There is movement toward an agreement with the A&M School of Pharmacy in Kingsville- where students interested in this program would be guaranteed an interview and work on some of their course work at TAMIU. Also, there is an interdisciplinary proposal for petroleum and

computer engineering programs currently being reviewed by the THECB. It will take approximately two years to hear back.

V. Faculty Senate President's Report -

Executive Council minutes were presented by George Clark related to- Title IV Kingsville violation pertaining to (student absences that were not reported – which are tied to financial aid. Faculty need to know, in the case of an audit, who the Title IX coordinator is and her name is Sandra Villanueva. The potential of TAMIU being audited is high because we have the most Pell Grants. Often in an audit, they check student workers time cards; they cannot be working when they are supposed to be in class.

It is important for faculty to track student attendance- if a student has stopped coming to class they will have to pay back part of their Pell grant if they failed to come to class and got an F. It is TAMIU's responsibility to keep track of attendance records. Faculty needs some way to monitor attendance of students. It does not mean you need to take attendance all the time-but it will be good to have a system in place. It will be up to each college to determine a system.

University Admissions is looking at how prospective students are interacting with our current system. Plans are to have scholarship information to students earlier so they can make a decision. In addition, they are looking at faculty to meet and greet high achieving high school students to have an initial introduction to the university.

Regarding IBC funded meals for speakers: Why is TAMIU going outside of the university for speaker-based dinners? The conclusion is that (SAP) has been rewritten – it is already in the ARAMARK contract. So if you have more than two TAMIU employees for meals – you need to eat on campus. An exception will be TAMIU job candidates.

A merit raise is possible but it is based on enrollment (semester credit hours). It sounds that is probably likely to be less than 2%. If enrollment collapses it does not look good. Tuition increases have been approved for next year at 2.5%. Budget meeting will be reconvened, and more information is forthcoming.

There is an idea to collaborate with other Faculty Senate Presidents within the region and system in order to discuss budgetary issues. Faculty Senate leader from Texas A&M is putting together a proposal and will present to the TAMIU faculty senate.

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

There was no meeting of this council since our last meeting.

VII. Reports from Committee Chairs

- Faculty Handbook Revision Committee- proposed changes have been sent to the faculty for a vote.
- Faculty Senate Webpage update- We have a new server called Cascade. With the changeover all of the old information will be deleted when the new Senate page is

migrated. Dr. Bennett asked for any old minutes from the past six years be provided to him. He also requests ideas to change the format of the Senate website as he plans to rebuild it over the summer.

- Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morale: The rubric for the Teacher of the Year observation component of the award selection was shared, and there was discussion of the upcoming observations for this year's selection.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

The Administrator evaluations are open until April 7th at midnight. Options are available for faculty to complete them online or print off the form and turn it in through interoffice mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.