

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 5, 2017
WHTC 125

I. Call to Order by Dr. James Norris at 12:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Present: Dr. James Norris, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Dr. Frances Rhodes, Dr. George Clarke, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Ms. Destine Holmgreen, Dr. David Milovich, Ms. Marcela Moran, Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Philip Roberson, Dr. Jacqueline Romano, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Dr. Marcus Ynalvez, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez, Dr. Oswaldo Zapata

III. Our Guest was given the floor:

Dr. Pablo Arenaz:

Dr. Arenaz made several announcements:

- As of now the House has our budget down by ~8%, the Senate down by ~10%. They may wind up in a special session which means that we might not have a final budget until July, or even later.

- There are several bills pending that are not good for those of us in higher education. One bill would cap tuition at our 2017-18 rate for 2 years, then only allow an increase of no more than 1% of the Consumer Price Index, if we meet the benchmarks in the bill related to our performance. Another bill would do away with the requirement that 15% of designated tuition go into 'need-based' scholarships. Also, there is a pending bill that would allow community colleges to offer applied bachelors degrees. Finally, there is a pending bill that would require us to put the class average on student transcripts.

- At the system level, the Chancellor sent out an email to all A&M Presidents stating that "sexual harassment/sexual assault on our campuses will not be tolerated and it has to stop". TAMIU will begin training of faculty, staff and students, starting in the summer, to better sensitize our community to this issue. There is an additional bill that is pending that will make it a felony offense if sexual harassment/sexual assault cases are not properly reported and the campus Compliance Officer and the CEO of the University are the ones who would be charged.

- The Governor is about to sign a bill which will require police forces in all public and private universities to check the immigration status of all students who are arrested for any offence. If we do not allow our officers to do this, it's a \$23,000 fine per case for the University.

- We are currently putting together the "Vision 2045 Committee" to access what we will need to do in order to grow and succeed as a University in the next 25 years. We are also getting ready to resubmit the proposal for the interdisciplinary Engineering degree and to submit a proposal for a doctoral program in Criminal Justice.

IV. The minutes of the April 7, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

V. Committee Reports

The Academic Oversight Committee - no report.

The Budget and Finance Committee - see attached minutes.

Dr. Vilorio reported that one of the big decisions forthcoming concerns future merit pay, which is pending our new budget from the legislature.

The University Ethics Committee - no report.

The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees - no report.

The Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morale:

Dr. Tobin reported that the Committee has finished all of the observations for the Teacher of the Year awards. The decision was made to destroy the outside teacher evaluations.

The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee - no report.

The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee:

Dr. James Norris reported that the University now has 79 QM certified courses, more than any other A&M System schools. Dr. Norris also announced that the Examinations monitoring system is being moved to the University Testing Center, which is normally not open on Saturdays or Sundays.

The Technology Advisory Committee - no report.

The Assessment Committee - no report.

VI. Old Business

1. *Faculty Senate Election Results:* Three new senators were welcomed to the Faculty Senate: Dr. Marcus Ynalvez (Dept. of Social Sciences), Dr. Diana Linn (Dept. of Curriculum & Pedagogy) and Dr. Philip Roberson (Dept. of Professional Programs).

2. *Course Evaluation Instrument:* Dr. James Norris passed out the minutes from the University Course Evaluation Instrument Review Committee and the results of the pilot evaluation (see attached). A motion was made that if we (faculty) have 2 weeks to have our courses evaluated, that this time slot be put into the official Academic calendar. This motion passed unanimously.

Dr. George Clarke was presented with a certificate for his outstanding work as our previous Senate President.

VII. Adjourn the 2016-2017 Senate so the 2017-2018 Senate could elect Senate Officers.

- President: Dr. Kenneth Tobin was nominated and accepted the position.
- Vice-President: Dr. Marvin Bennett was nominated and accepted the position.
- Secretary: Dr. Ruby Ynalvez was nominated and accepted the position.
- Elections Officer and Parliamentarian: Dr. Frances Rhodes was nominated and accepted the position.

VIII. The 2016-2017 Senate reconvened to vote on Teacher/Scholar of the Year.

- Teacher of the Year Award - there was a clear winner, no ties.
- Scholar of the Year Award - there was a clear winner, no ties.

IX. The meeting was adjourned 1:49 p.m.

Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2017

The Budget Advisory Committee met on April 13, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in KL-270 with the following members in attendance: Brian Gaskins, Margaret Gonzalez, Hari Mandal, Fred Juarez, San Juanita Guerra, Claudia San Miguel, Marivic Torregosa, Lourdes Vilorio and Chunlai Ye. Attending in an ex officio capacity were Juan Castillo, Trevor Little and Julie Barrera.

Mr. Castillo began the meeting by welcoming back the previous committee members. Then the new members were introduced and the Committee Charge and Member Term handouts were passed around the table for review.

An Appropriations vs. Enrollment handout was distributed and discussed. Following this, Mr. Castillo discussed the legislative climate and referred to the following newspaper article handouts:

The Texas Tribune article, "Will Texas universities face perfect storm cuts?" and the Wall Street Journal article, "Texas Feels the Energy Bust."

Mr. Castillo explained Texas revenues are down hence, there is less money to appropriate to higher education. As far as federal revenues for higher education, the Trump Administration is looking at a possible cut to Pell Grants.

Next, the legislative process was discussed by Mr. Castillo. He stated Texas legislators are meeting to set appropriations in the Conference Committee.

Mr. Castillo explained that higher education gets funded through state appropriations in two ways: formula funding (based on semester credit hours not head count) and Special Items. The Senate Bill version would eliminate Special Items, add money to Formula Funding and include a Special Item Phase Out of over \$10M.

Dr. Arenaz would like to appeal to the Conference Committee by citing the history of the MALDEF South Texas Border Initiative case requesting a reclassification of the Special Item Phase Out to a permanent, untouchable, safe spot.

Once we know the budget, after the Conference Committee version is released the Budget Advisory Committee will make recommendations for or against merit for TAMIU based on budget cuts as well as hiring freeze decisions and/or budget cuts.

At the next meeting, Mr. Fred Juarez will provide various scenarios based on the proposed cuts to higher education.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:48 p.m.

Agenda

1. Review of minutes from 1.27.17
Summer 2016 73% 74% Spring 2017
2. Overview of response rates
 - a. Institution
 - b. College
 - c. Department
3. Review of feedback
 - a. Faculty *median score 4.56 SD .37*
 - b. Students
4. Review sample individual report (identifying information redacted)
5. Discussion of course evaluation window length
2 weeks good 800 last day
6. Additional items?
7. Determine next steps

Minutes

1. K. Miller provided an overview of changes to the course evaluation process since Fall 2015.
2. The committee examined the summer pilot instrument (which was originally sent to all deans and chairs for review and feedback) and subsequent revisions suggested by COAS faculty.
3. G. Clarke suggested that the existing pilot instrument's core questions were biased towards small classes and proposed the committee devise an instrument with 3-4 core questions and then a set of questions tailored to course type (large lecture, small discussion-oriented classes, labs, etc.)—similar to the current University of Washington. K. Miller indicated doing so would not be feasible this semester given our CoursEval pilot and that, for now, this group would have to focus on university-wide core questions. In the future, this could perhaps be part of the customizable section of the instrument.
4. Each question on the instrument was reviewed and, if needed, revised to foster 1) applicability to all courses and 2) student understanding. The following new question was added to the Challenge Index: Relative to other similar level college courses you have taken, I believe my final grade will be (Much higher-much lower).
5. Two new open-ended questions were agreed upon as well: What I liked most about this course is/What I liked least about this course is. The committee liked that these questions are unrestrictive and allow students to provide holistic feedback in a way that can help instructors 1) learn what teaching practices work for students and 2) target areas for improvement.
6. The committee debated adding the following question, or something similar, to the Teaching Effectiveness index: The instructor helped me understand the importance of the subject matter. Although it was not added to the pilot instrument, the committee would like to review this item again after the spring data has been collected and analyzed. The committee discussed keeping the number of core questions limited—the tighter we can make the core questions, the better.
7. The SLO and customizable questions will not be part of the pilot this semester. We will need to pilot the core questions first. Once we have determined our software provider, we will be able to add in the customizable sections in the future.
8. S. Duffy suggested that we involve SGA in the process of collecting student feedback about the pilot this spring. The committee can help SGA put together a survey, or short interview form, that essentially asks 1) Do students think the new instrument is good? 2) What questions would they like to add or delete? And 3) What do they interpret specific questions to mean?
9. The meeting closed with a plan to meet with the software company, AEFIS, on Feb. 15th to discuss how their platform could meet our needs. K. Miller will arrange a time and send out a calendar invite to the committee.

Attendees: David Allen, Ken Tobin, Stephen Duffy, Anna Cieslicka, George Clarke, Lilia Cantu, Jim Norris, Karyn Miller

Committee Members: David Allen, Ken Tobin, Stephen Duffy, Anna Cieslicka, George Clarke, Lilia Cantu, Jim Norris, Karyn Miller, Belva Gonzalez, Wendy Donnell, Alfredo Ramirez, Milton Mayfield, Destine Holmgreen

**Courseval Pilot
Spring 2017
Evaluation instrument questions
Revised 1.27.17**

I. Core Questions (Not customizable)

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

1. The instructor engaged students in the subject matter.
2. The instructor provided feedback on my performance throughout the semester.
3. The course was well-organized.

4. Overall, the quality of the instruction in this course was:

Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor

Compared

~~Relative~~ to other similar level college courses you have taken:

Much Higher, Higher, Average, Lower, Much Lower

5. The academic/creative challenge was:
6. The amount of effort required in this course was:

7. I believe my final grade will be:

inspirational

Please complete the following statements:

8. What I liked most about this course is...
9. What I liked least about this course is...

II. Student Learning Questions (Customizable)

- 1) The extent to which the course helped students to meet specific course SLOs (provided by instructor)
 - a. The idea here is to use evaluations as an indirect measure of student learning that can be used to assess course SLOs
 - b. 1-5 indirect measures of student learning recommended (closed)

III. Course/faculty-specific questions (Customizable)

- a. Up to 3 additional questions (can be open or closed)