

## TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

September 4, 2020; WebEx

I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Lola Norris, at 12:02 p.m.

II. *Roll Call*: Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Mr. Jose Gutierrez, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Abby Lloyd, Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Rose Saldivar, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

III. *Our Guests* were given the floor:

### **Dr. Pablo Arenaz:**

Dr. Arenaz announced to the Senate that many of the problems dealing with the events of the last week with the Laredo Health Authority have been a lack of communication on the LHA's part. The rumors that TAMIU has not been reporting the number of positive covid cases or contact data to the LHA are untrue. First they gave us a form for reporting on August 19th that was highly confusing and had some possible FERPA issues in it. Then they sent us a different form which we submitted our data by fax on August 27th and 31st and they later claimed to have lost the information we sent them. On August 31st Dr. Arenaz reported to the City Crisis Management Team that since we have been testing (August 6th) we have had only 11 positive cases (1.79 % of all tested were positive). Five of which had already recovered. TAMIU requires that anyone who tests positive has to provide proof of a negative test before being allowed back on campus.

It was also announced that all student nurses were tested so that they could go into their Clinicals and all student athletes were also tested. Four athletes tested positive and have since been in isolation, either in their dorm rooms or in their apartments off-campus. All the athletes who tested positive had their team members retested and all those have tested negative.

There was a glitch in our data (the excel spreadsheet) that was sent to the LHA and they first tried to quarantine the whole campus and then just the AIC and the Rec Center. They wanted to close the AIC because 2 of the students who tested positive were in the same class, but those students were taking the course online and not face-to-face. The Texas Department of State Health Services then issued a revocation of the city quarantine orders because they didn't make any sense. Dr. Arenaz stated that the health and safety of students, faculty and staff are of the utmost priority and, if we have to, we will go into a virtual environment to protect each other. There is a committee that has been formed that meets every Monday afternoon that looks at all of the covid data in the city, the region and on campus. Dr. Lola Norris is a member of that committee as is the President of the Student Government Association, our Health Consultant, our Director of Health Services, our Director of Risk Management and the Vice Presidents.

Dr. Arenaz also announced that we are currently working on the 2021-2022 budget and, right now, our budget for the next biennium is going to be 5% less than it is during this biennium. We will try to make this cut have a minimal impact on instruction.

Dr. Arenaz then opened the floor for questions:

Q: Has the A&M System considered deploying the new FDA-approved rapid test kits?

A: The System has spent \$17 M for testing that will take us through November. They may consider going for the more rapid tests after that. Our current tests run from \$100 to \$150 each, have a turn-around of 24 to 30 hours and are about 92% reliable.

Q: How many students are currently coming to class on campus?

A: Currently 10 to 15% are coming face-to-face.

Q: How many of the TAMIU community are currently covid active now?

A: Of those who are reporting to us, 6 or 7 are currently active.

Q: How do faculty get information that a student can come back to class?

A: Students who know they are positive are supposed to report it to the University Health Center. Student Health Services will then inform the faculty if a student is allowed to return to class or they will provide the students with documentation to present to the faculty.

Q: Where can faculty find this Red Cap Reporting Portal?

A: On the University's Covid-19 page.

**Dr. Tom Mitchell:**

Dr. Mitchell thanked the Senate for being a responsible voice of the Faculty and made several important announcements to the Senate:

- The System Provosts have a conference call every Tuesday afternoon and the other Provosts were astonished at our low positivity rate.
- The Deans and Chairs have been working on the Spring Semester and have decided to create a 15 minute time block in between class sessions, both to allow students more time to get to classes and to allow faculty to have some additional time to set up the technology they are going to use to teach their classes.
- They are trying to get a balance between the number on online classes and face-to-face classes. We will not have hybrid classes in the Spring; only online, FTF and FLEX courses will be taught. If you want to teach an online class it has to be QM certified. If it is a new course in the

Spring you need to take, at least, the basic QM training by the Fall. You can not take the training while you are teaching the course.

- The Senate was informed that some caps were going to be put on large FLEX classes and that Faculty will be assigned Academic Coaches to assist them in those courses. It was suggested that Dr. Mitchell meet with the Faculty who teach these large FLEX courses to share both problems with those courses and possible solutions to those problems.
- It has been suggested that we cancel or move around Spring Break for this Spring semester. This would give us more flexibility depending on the Covid situation.
- It was also suggested that we actually try to find out whether students really want online classes or face-to-face classes before we make final decisions on that matter in our scheduling of classes.
- It was asked of the Provost that even if TAMIU goes fully virtual, will that include lab classes? The answer is no, unless the labs can be taught effectively virtually they will remain face-to-face.

#### IV. Old Business:

Senator Vilorio reported that she has been trying to coordinate a meeting with the AEFIS Support Group concerning using the AEFIS portal to document our intellectual contributions to the University. Also, to come up with a uniform format for teaching portfolios in case they also become digital. The Executive Committee had one meeting with them and are currently trying to arrange a follow-up meeting. She will be working with members of the Academic Oversight Committee on this in the future.

#### V. Senate Minutes:

The minutes for the April 3rd and May 1st Regular Senate meetings and the March 27th and July 17th Special Senate meetings were presented to the Senate for approval. These were approved without corrections.

#### VI. Old Business (continued):

1. Senators Gill and Gonzalez updated the Senate on the University Awards. Senator Gill announced that Senators who haven't should look at the binders in September as we will be voting on these awards in the October Senate meeting. The question was asked as to how we should notify the candidates who are winners of the awards? It was asked that the Awards Committee come up with some suggestions and run them by the Provost and report their ideas to the Senate during the October meeting.
2. Senators Dalton and Bennett announced that the updated printed copy of the Faculty Handbook is now available in the Library.

## VII. New Business:

1. Senator Lola Norris presented the group with the Faculty Senate Committee Assignments (see attached). It was requested that Senators look over their assignments to see if they would be willing to serve on their assigned committees. Also it was asked that the committees meet in September to elect the chair of each committee.
2. Senator Dalton reported that there are 2 University Committee positions that still need to be voted on by the Faculty; the Graduate Council and the Faculty Development Leave Committee. A notice will be sent out to solicit nominations for these positions on Monday (September 7th) until Friday and then voting will take place the following week.
3. Ongoing Technology and Distance Education Issues:
  - It was reported that there are still some issues with room 106 in the Fine & Performing Arts building.
  - Also it was reported that there is no internet connection available in Bullock Hall room 107.
  - We need a better way of writing on the white board through Collaborate, the system we have now with the document cameras does not seem to work well.

## VIII. Announcements:

- It was reported that there is still not a 2020 - 2021 catalog online for our use.
- There is currently some confusion as to whether or not we will be doing student course evaluations this semester.
- It was announced that the new Ombuds Officer is Dr. Lorraine Dinkel.
- We should be given the option in doing either a paper or digital teaching portfolio if one is going to be required of us in the coming year.

## IX. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

**TAMIU Faculty Senate 2020-2021**  
**Committee Assignments**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>
The Budget and Finance Committee	Tobin, K.	Prieto, L.	Lin, R
The Academic Oversight Committee	Viloria, M.	Gonzalez, A.	Ynalvez, R.
The University Ethics Committee	Moran, M.	McReynolds, N.	Garcia, V.
The Committee on Committees	Dalton, M.	Lloyd, A.	
The Awards Committee	Gonzalez, A	Gill, P	Palmer, K.
The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee	Dalton, M.	Bennett, M	X
The Assessment Committee	Gill, P.	Ynalvez, R.	Martinez, G.
The Technology Advisory Committee	Viloria, M	Bennett, M	Tobin, K.
The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee	Norris, J.	Momen, M.	Moran, M.
Ad Hoc Committee on Fixed-Term Faculty	Gutierrez, J.	Martinez, G.	Palmer, K.

**TAMIU Faculty Senate 2020-2021  
Committees per Senator**

<b>Senator</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>Bennett, Marvin</b>	Faculty Handbook Revision Committee	Technology Advisory Committee
<b>Dalton, Malynda</b>	Faculty Handbook Revision Committee	Committee on Committees
<b>Garcia, Vivian.</b>	University Ethics Committee	
<b>Gill, Puneet.</b>	Awards Committee	Assessment Committee
<b>Gonzalez, Ariadne</b>	Academic Oversight Committee	Awards Committee
<b>Gutierrez, José</b>	Ad-Hoc Committee Fixed-Term Faculty	
<b>Lin, Runchang</b>	Budget and Finance Committee	
<b>Lloyd, Abby</b>	Committee on Committees	
<b>Martinez, Gilberto</b>	Assessment Committee	Ad-Hoc Committee Fixed-Term Faculty
<b>McReynolds, Neal</b>	University Ethics Committee	
<b>Momen, Mehnaaz</b>	Distance Education Committee	
<b>Moran, Marcela</b>	University Ethics Committee	Distance Education Committee
<b>Norris, James</b>	Distance Education Committee	
<b>Norris, Lola</b>		
<b>Palmer, Kimber</b>	Ad-Hoc Committee Fixed-Term Faculty	Awards Committee
<b>Prieto, Leonel</b>	Budget and Finance Committee	
<b>Tobin, Ken</b>	Budget and Finance Committee	Technology Advisory Committee
<b>Viloria, Lourdes</b>	Academic Oversight Committee	Technology Advisory Committee
<b>Ynalvez, Ruby</b>	Academic Oversight Committee	Assessment Committee

Texas A&M International University/ Technology Advisory Committee

*Minutes*

February 26, 2020

10: 30 a.m. KLM 253

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Maria de Lourdes Viloria

Invitees:

Kenneth Tobin– COAS,

Cynthia L. Piña, COE,

Hugo Garcia –ARSSBA,

Lisa Heard – CNHS,

Elizabeth DeZouche – KL,

Jose Maria (Joe) Gutierrez, University College

President's Appointee, Marvin E. Bennett, III

Fred Juarez III, VP for Finance & Admissions Appointee,

Albert Chavez, Interim VP for Informational Technology/CIO

Athena Cortez, VP for Institutional Advancement Appointee

Gina Gonzalez, VP for Student Success Appointee

Vacant, VP for Informational Technology/CIO, ex-officio

Patricia Abrego, Director of Instructional Technology & Distance Education

Pablo Reyes, Associate Director of User Services

Ricardo Ramirez, Associate Director of Student Information Services

Roberto Gonzalez, Associate Director of Instructional Technology Services

- I. Welcome/ Roll call
  
- II. Review/Approve November 14, 2019 Minutes were approved.
  
- III. New Business
  1. Review 2020-2021 TAMIU Calendar with Dr. Gaskins with all Academic Units for potential conflicts with Midterm and Finals. This item was reviewed but since we do not have a copy of the 2020-2021 TAMIU Calendar, it will be revisited. The TAC discussed the System Spring Break Security Maintenance Schedule. Albert will be requesting that the March 17, 2020 schedule date be move to March 16, 2020. This necessary maintenance will not affect any courses since it is happening during Spring Break 2020.
  2. QM - Certification Timeline & 20% rule- This item will be revisited since Dr. Abrego was not present.
  3. Technology labs projectors in LBV first and second floors and Student Center 231 - light bulbs. Albert Chavez will be checking these classrooms. Dr. Bennett clarified that it is possible that the screen in LBV 109 need to be replaced. Furthermore, Albert will be

meeting with TAMIU Events because it is highly possible that STC 231 belongs to Events and they are responsible for the equipment.

#### IV. Open Agenda

Dr. Viloría requested that Albert Chavez check on the possibility of extending the DUO authentication from 1 day to 30 days. Albert explained that currently there is no system requirement on the number of days needed for DUO authentication- it is an institutional decision. However, Albert will visit with the TAMIU Security group.

The TAC also discussed the following items related to increasing student participation in course evaluations.

Albert Chavez, will study the possibility of ordering more tablets, currently OIT only has 10 tablets. This is an important topic since the Faculty Senate's Academic Oversight Committee is currently working with Dr. David Allen exploring the possibility of expanding the number of course evaluation stations to (LBV, Student Center, Western Hemisphere, and Recreation Center). The locations have not yet been determined.

Additional ideas suggested by the TAC for increasing students' participation in course evaluations are the following:

1. Dr. Allen needs to consider having a representative from his office to participate in the TAMIU Social Media Advisory Committee – Contact person is Christine Rojas. The possibilities of increasing students' course evaluation buy-in via a social media presence are many.
2. Contact Steve Harmon and begin a marketing campaign which can include Student Center table tents, Dr. Allen's TAMIU Bridge interview so that he can discuss the importance of TAMIU students' voice via course feedback.– contact Rob Brown
3. Create a QR code for students to use during course evaluation time.
4. Explore the possibility of sending students text messages and/or email reminders via the new Customer Relationship Management System.
5. Create an Insta Story for course evaluations- contact Priscilla Martinez
6. Parade to Course Evaluations
7. Finally, work with SOLE and Student Government representative to identify student influencers to help with Course Evaluation Stations.