

## Faculty Senate Meeting

21 January 2011  
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm  
WHTC 250

- I. Call to Order by Dr. Riggs at 12:06 p.m.
- II. Roll Call : **Present:** Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. A. Limon, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. Sung, Mr. B., Townsend, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. W. Riggs, Dr. M. Vargas, Dr. P. Hoang, Dr. J. Kilburn, Dr. J. Norris
- III. The minutes to the Dec meeting will be approved later electronically.
- IV. Our guests Dr. Keck and Dr. Arenaz were given the floor.

- We now have a general purpose room in the Library and it was offered to the Senate as a place to hold our monthly meetings.

- Dr. Riggs was thanked for sending his letter of concern to the President about the most recent faculty tenure decisions. The concern of the letter was that the will of the Faculty was thwarted by the will of the Administration. The Faculty Senate was assured by the President and the Provost that all votes and decisions are part of the public record and can be examined by anyone and that proper procedures were followed with regard to tenure decisions.

- It was brought up that there was a concern among the Faculty as to what is required from them to receive tenure at TAMU, especially in terms of the number of publications required. The response from both the President and the Provost was that they do not want to give a minimum number of publications necessary because they do not want faculty to “shoot for a minimum achievement”.

- The Provost also suggested that we consider soliciting external evaluators from aspirational schools for people coming up for tenure and/or promotion.

- There was a great deal of discussion about the apparent disconnect between the PP&E and tenure requirements. It was pointed out that the PP&E is an annual merit review and is different than developing an active and significant body of peer-reviewed scholarly work required for tenure. Discussion followed as to what exactly constitutes “an active and significant body of peer-reviewed scholarly work”.

- It was announced that Dean Mitchell in the College of Arts and Sciences will send out an email to meet with all untenured faculty to discuss the expectations for promotion and tenure and that the Provost will start a series of lunches with untenured faculty to help advise them.

- On University budgetary matters we were informed that the first version of the budget from the House would include an 18% budget cut for us which would be the equivalent to 35 faculty positions. But nothing has been set in stone and will not be until the State budget is confirmed, probably not until August.

- The Provost provided us with a copy of an alternate academic calendar for 2011-2012 and requested feedback from the Senate and the Faculty.

## V. Old Business

- Ombudsman Status: Dr. Riggs reported that he will have the Ombudsman request into the Provost by the following week. We will make the announcement on the 1st of February. Close it at Spring Break, review the nominees after the break and make the selection by during April.

- Administrator/Student Evaluations: nothing to report.

- System Document on faculty workloads/salaries: The Faculty Work and Morale Committee was asked to help come up with a template that would show that Faculty do a 40 hour work week in the performance of their duties.

## VI. New Business

- Dr. Killburn is moving to a half-time administrative appointment as Associate Dean of Research, but will not be supervising faculty. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to retain him as an at-large Faculty Senate member until the end of the semester and for him to retain his Senate's Chair on the Budget/Finance Committee.

- Committee Reports:

- Budget/Finance Committee - Dr. Killburn reported that the committee did meet over the break and that the Committee recommends that we all watch what happens with the budget cuts and to keep communication lines open.

- Ethics Committee - Lynda Brown (the Chair of this committee) has resigned from the Senate and Dr. Rhodes announced that she would put out a call for nominations to the Department of Language and Literature to replace her position.

- Academic Affairs Committee - Dr. Vargas reported that within the College of Education they are looking at formalizing a shared governance statement among their departments. It was suggested that a shared governance statement could be developed by the Provost Counsel and then disseminated to the University for discussion and modification. A statement on shared governance was found on the A&M website and will be emailed to the

Senate to begin the discussions with their respective departments.

- Faculty Work and Moral Committee - Dr. Norris reported that the Committee will be conducting the Faculty Opinion Poll about what concerns they would like to see the Senate address next year. It was requested that this Committee look at the Administrator Evaluations to determine if it was feasible to conduct the evaluations this year and whether or not it could be done electronically.

- Committee on Committees - Dr. Rhodes reported that this committee has not met.

- Faculty Handbook Revision Committee - Dr. Rhodes reported that all of the Karen Royal issues have been incorporated into the new Handbook and it is now on line for everyone. The next agenda item for the Committee would be to take all of the new items that have been voted on and approved and start working them into the Handbook. It was also requested that this Committee look at formalizing a definition of an Administrator for Handbook purposes.

#### VII. Other Business.

- It was announced that the Provost Counsel will have a budget workshop on Monday, Jan 24. from 1:00 until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

VIII. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 pm. The motion was seconded and approved.