

## Faculty Senate Meeting

4 March 2011  
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm  
WHTC 250

- I. Call to Order by Dr. Riggs at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Roll Call, **Present:** Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. A. Limon, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. C. Sung, Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. W. Riggs, Dr. M. Vargas

Dr. Marcella Moran was welcomed as our newest Faculty Senate member.

- III. The minutes of the Jan. 21, 2011 meeting were approved.
- IV. Our guests; Drs. Keck, Arenaz and Plank were given the floor.

Dr. Keck:

- Emphasized that nothing has been decided about the budget yet. TAMIU's biggest problem is that our 'Special Items' which funds many of our faculty should actually be called 'Core Funding'. Dr. Keck asked that all faculty to engage in the discussions of what if our funding is cut significantly.

Dr. Arenaz:

- Announced that the House Appropriations Committee has discussed and endorsed 'Outcomes Based Funding' where a percentage of our general revenue funding will be based on the number of students that we graduate. Dr. Arenaz also passed out a tentative fall schedule which would include a new Fall Break.

Dr. Plank:

- Provided a handout of workshops for the Texas A&M GREAT program workshops concerning the mentoring of students by Faculty and Administrators. Dr. Plank also announced that we have received \$3.5 million for the Title V: Sophomore Success Program and that on April 14 and 15, two professionals who have authored books on Sophomore Success will be leading a conference at TAMIU. Stipends will also be offered for faculty who have at least 25% sophomores in their courses and who wish to work during the summer to incorporate success strategies into their fall sophomore courses.

## V. Old Business

### Ombudsman Status:

- Dr. Riggs supplied a handout outlining the position description, duties, appointment process and other relevant information concerning the Ombudsman position. It was noted that we will have to proceed immediately with having this approved by the Provost if the new position would be occupied by the fall semester. Some discussion followed as to who would be qualified to fill the position and it was decided by a unanimous vote of the Senate that there would be no conflict of interest between Dr. Rhodes duties as an Executive Officer of the Senate and holding the position as Ombudsman.

### Administration Evaluation Update:

- Mr. Townsend provided a draft of the new Administrator Evaluation Instrument. It was suggested that the Library Director should be evaluated as a Department Chair. A motion was made that these evaluations be given during the same time period as PPE's are due (late January to early February). A vote on this motion was nearly unanimous, with one opposed.

### Student Evaluation Update:

- Mr. Townsend reported that the Committee has revised the 16 questions in the Chancellor's Award evaluations and it was suggested, voted on and approved unanimously that for the fall semester the faculty will have 3 choices in evaluations: the new evaluation, the Chancellors' and the Washington University with the Wash. U. evaluation being the default.

## VI. Committee Reports

### Handbook Committee:

- Mr. Maxstadt reported that the official archival copy of the new Handbook is now in the Library and on the Senate website. He also reported that all the changes from the 'Royal memo' have been implemented and awaited a response from the Provost. Also, the changes adopted in 2009 were not present in the new Handbook and so that now have to be recirculated to the faculty for a revote.

### Academic Affairs Committee:

Dr. Vargas reported that the committee has met and is now seeking feedback from the faculty on the wording of the 'Shared Governance Statement' that is to be incorporated into our Handbook. It was emphasized that we need involvement from all Colleges as to how this should be worded.

### Faculty Work and Morale Committee:

Dr. Norris supplied the Senate with a copy of the Faculty Questionnaire. It was emphasized that faculty should take this questionnaire very seriously as the President and the Provost does.

## VII. New Business

- Nominations for a slate of Senate Officers and to fill vacant Senate positions should be sent to Dr. Rhodes by April 1st.

- Mr. Townsend reported on his trip as our representative to the Texas Counsel of Faculty Senates Meeting. The TCFS requested that all Faculty Senates vote to endorse 2 resolutions; one regarding hand guns at universities and the other budget reduction and faculty workload. It was suggested that these resolutions be sent to all faculty to be voted on electronically in the following week.

VIII. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 pm. The motion was seconded and approved.