

## Faculty Senate Meeting

2 Sept 2011  
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm  
WHTC 250

- I. Call to Order by Mr. Townsend at 1:31 p.m.
- II. Roll Call, **Present:** Mr. B. Townsend, Mr. J. Maxstadt, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. S. Duffy, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. L. Hammer, Dr. J. Kilburn, Dr. M. Moran, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. L. Prieto, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. C. Sung, Dr. M. Vargas
- III. Our guests were given the floor.

### **- Dr. Keck and Dr. Arenaz**

- There has been some concern expressed as to how the University manages its Social Media (FaceBook, Twitter, etc.). It is A&M system policy that people who are on a fixed hour work schedule may from time to time use University resources to tend to personal affairs provided that it does not detract from their job or cost the State money. It seems that some people are using this media in excess and the President and Upper Administration will be meeting soon with system lawyers to discuss the conditions under which the use of this media is or is not appropriate.

- It was mentioned that there is no money at the present time in the merit pool for salary increases for anyone except to continue the commitment to increase the salaries for those people who have been promoted.

- It was announced that the new Chancellor will be visiting our campus on Sept. 29th and will be meeting with the Senate, Student Government Association, Administrators and also hold an open forum for everyone on that day.

- Dr. Mitchell was appointed to chair the new Action Committee; whose purpose is to look at the metrics and means of assessment in order to better recruit students, retain students and graduate them in a timely fashion.

### **- Dr. Randal Brown (Faculty Athletics Representative), Dr. Kristen Standage (Director of the Advising and Mentoring Center), Leonard Nardone (Director of Athletics), Ana Coleman (Student Athletic Advisor)**

- Discussion followed about NCAA rules as they pertain to Faculty and Student Athletes, academic reporting mechanisms and academic monitoring systems. There are 2 Faculty Athletic

Representatives (Drs. Brown and Burkhalter) and their primary responsibility is to oversee the welfare of Student Athletes and to make sure that they are in compliance with rules regarding being students first and athletes second. Henry Miller is the Student Compliance Officer for our University. The student absentee policy and reporting mechanisms for all students can be found on TAMIU's website and in Uconnect in the Faculty tab under "Early Alert".

**- Dr. Minita Ramirez and Conchita Hickey**

- A handout was provided to the Senate covering the dates and topics that a group of nationally recognized experts will be presenting at TAMIU under the Prof Center and Title V Great and Title V Sophomore Success grants. We now have a fully dedicated counselor and advisor for our sophomores under the Sophomore Success Grant. We now have 6 new sophomore mentors to act as advisors to our Sophomore Class.

IV. Old Business

- The minutes of the May Faculty Senate meeting were approved unanimously with no revisions.

- Faculty Handbook

- We have 6 substantive Handbook amendments that were approved by the Senate in Oct - Dec 2010 and were approved by the Administration and now need a Faculty vote. All changes were condensations or attempts to bring those sections of the Handbook into a better alignment with current System Policies. Since these changes were voted on by the Senate over 60 days ago a revote was made and unanimously approved to send these changes to the Faculty for a vote.

- Two new Handbook changes were submitted for approval by the Senate:

- Change to the Preface in the Handbook that defines what the Handbook is and does. A new wording was presented which now includes the phrase "rules and procedures" to distinguish rules and procedures made on campus from policies and regulations which can only be made by the System. After discussion it was agreed to move the phrase "in all previous publications" to the end of the sentence. This change, as amended, was voted on and approved unanimously.

- Wording in the Handbook involving the teaching of doctoral seminars. This was the wording that was discussed during the last Faculty Senate meeting and sent back to the Handbook Committee for study. This change was voted on and approved unanimously.

- It was requested that the Handbook Committee get definitive wording on the definition of Clinical Track and Professional Track Faculty status so that the relevant rules and procedures can be added to the Handbook.

#### V. New Business

- The proposed Senate Committee Structure was presented to the Group and any questions or problems should be presented to the Committee on Committees. It was discussed that the Faculty need to have some input in the Technology Committee in some way if it is possible.

- The institutional statement on Shared Governance was discussed and it was asked that the Senate share their thoughts on this statement.

- Our new Ombuds Person (Dr. Rhodes) announced that she will be going to a professional training session in Baltimore in mid-October. Her official office hours are currently 10 - 12 a.m. Monday through Friday.

- The Senate was asked to take a look at the Grievance list in the Handbook to make it as tight as possible.

VI. The September meeting was completed and adjourned at 3:42 p.m.