

Faculty Senate Meeting

2 Mar 2012
12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.
WHTC 125

- I. Call to Order by Mr. Townsend at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Roll Call, **Present:** Mr. B. Townsend, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. L. Hemmer, 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 Dr. Keck, Dr. Arenaz and Mr. Castillo were given the floor.

Dr. Keck clarified the announcement that was made at the last Faculty Assembly Meeting that, pending approval by the Board of Regents, student tuition will go up \$150 (4.3 %) from its current base per 15 credit hours taken for each of the next 2 academic years. It was also announced that the students voted to approve the referendum to increase tuition an additional \$3 per semester hour for improvements to the Student Center. Dr. Keck also stated that part of the student tuition increase, again, if it is approved, would go back into reestablishing a merit pool.

Dr. Arenaz announced that he just received the ok to proceed with the last of the previous Chancellors' Excellence in Teaching Awards. He also announced that the Faculty were sent the new Learning Outcomes and Objectives for the System and asked for their input. This will 1) give the A&M System a systemwide model that could be brought before the State for possible statewide adoption; 2) give us a common set of metrics for inter-comparison in order to be able to share best practices.

- IV. The minutes of the February Faculty Senate meeting were approved with corrections.

V. Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Oversight Committee - The Committee met with the Registrar to address the problem of students not having the prerequisites for courses that require them. The Committee will be working with OIT and with the Registrar to attempt to resolve this issue and will report their results at the next Senate meeting.

Assessment Committee - It was announced that Administrative Evaluations have been extended until the following Monday at 5:00 p.m. We were all urged to participate and that the evaluations are anonymous.

Budget & Finance Committee - The Committee did not meet.

Ethics Committee - The Committee did not meet.

Faculty Morale and Welfare Committee - The Committee did not meet.

Faculty Handbook Revision Committee - The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Committees - The Committee did not meet.

VI. Old Business

The Faculty Mentoring Program - We are currently in the process of searching for a new Director of the Prof Center. It was suggested to request from the Deans to check with their individual Chairs in order to find out what kind of follow-up and paper trail is available for current Faculty mentoring.

A set of suggested changes to the Handbook under 'Grievance process' were presented for discussion. These were based on issues that were brought up by System Lawyers who have reviewed our Grievance Procedures. It was suggested that it be clarified that the Grievance Committee will be constituted from the current Grievance Pool, that this Committee should have the ability to decide what constitutes evidence on a case-per-case basis and that there should be a time limit imposed on the presentation of evidence with the Committee having the flexibility to extend this time limited as needed. Also, it was suggested that a complaint be upgraded to an actual Grievance when a specific Grievance Form (to be created) be filed. Further feedback was asked to be sent to the Handbook Committee.

A second set of issues dealing with Non-reappointment of Faculty were also presented. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate should select a committee of 3 individuals from the current, tenured Senate to be the Advisory Group to advise the individual of their options. It was also suggested that, as currently stated in the Handbook, a second Hearing Committee be established to make recommendations to the Provost concerning each individual case.

VII. New Business

The Provost is requesting that we form an Ad Hoc Committee of senior Faculty to look at load release for doctoral dissertation supervision, so suggested names are needed from various disciplines.

Dr. Norris reported on his meeting with the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. The Council talked extensively about the new core course requirements. All of our core courses will have to be rejustified in order to meet the new System Learning Objectives. Dr. Norris also reported that most schools have not had raises in 2 to 3 years. The Council is also going to push to have a Faculty Representative on the Board of Regents. It was also reported that at most schools student evaluations of faculty are online, with the result being a much lower participation rate.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.