

Faculty Senate Meeting

30 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, Mr. John Maxstadt, Dr. F. Rhodes, Dr. M. Bennett, Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. Stephen Duffy, Ms. V. Garcia, Dr. L. Hemmer, Dr. M. Moran, Dr. M. Munoz, Dr. J. Norris, Dr. A. Ramirez, Dr. C. Sung, Dr. M. Vargas
- III. Our guest Dr. Arenaz was given the floor.

Dr. Arenaz announced that a new rule is about to go into effect that people who are at or over 100 days in completing their HR Training will lose access to their University internet.

Also a teaching load analysis will be done comparing last year to this year with the hope that we will not have to go beyond next year with the additional teaching loads for tenured faculty. Depending upon what happens with tuition and fees, the proposal is to create 50 or so course releases for those faculty who are engaged in scholarship.

It was announced that we have had some problems with our Education Majors in passing the Texas Exam and that new policies are going to be put into place that require them to pass the content portion of the Texas Exam before they will be allowed to enroll in their Block 3.

The Provost mentioned that he has reviewed the Annual Faculty Evaluations and we should receive a final copy soon.

- IV. The minutes of the March 2nd Faculty Senate meeting were approved.
- V. Committee Reports

Handbook Revision Committee

A handout on the “Revision to Faculty Handbook Grievance” section was presented with numerous changes to help clarify the grievance process. Certain redundancies were stricken, items were reordered and the mention that a “complaint form” will be available on the Provost’s website. **These changes were voted on and approved unanimously.**

Suggested changes to the Handbook section on “Failure to Meet Standards” were also presented. These changes are to help clarify the procedure of ‘due process’ when someone is being terminated. Discussion followed on the appropriateness of inserting an “Advisory Committee” into this process. It was suggested that the Handbook Committee reword this document to make an Advisory Committee an option and not a requirement and to include the

Ombuds as an option. In an informal vote to keep the Advisory Committee in place.... **8 voted for, 4 against, 1 neutral.**

It was purposed that in the section under “Non-reappointment” that the words ‘in writing’ be inserted in the following sentence (page 59); “A faculty member with tenure shall not be dismissed until she/he has received reasonable notice of the cause for dismissal *in writing* and only after an opportunity for a hearing,...”. **This change was voted on and approved unanimously.**

In the Handbook under “Due Process”, it was suggested that the Advisory Committee and the Ombuds be added to the options of resolving issues. The Handbook Committee was charged with supplying the appropriate wording and then sending the changes to the Senate for an e-vote so that these changes could go out for a faculty vote before the end of the semester. **This was voted on and approved unanimously.**

Assessment Committee

It was reported that the President of the Senate will give the results of the Administration Evaluations as a paper printout to the President and the Provost for dissemination to the Deans and Department Heads. It was requested that in the next round of Administrator Evaluations that for the Library Director the questions given to him would be more appropriate to those of the Heads evaluations instead of the Deans.

Faculty Morale Committee

Based on the Faculty Questionnaire, it was reported that the number one concern of the faculty is the workload, followed second by salary and merit concerns. There were a considerable amount of complaints that the Senate was not representing the Faculty strong enough.

Academic Affairs Committee

The Committee reported that they were less than optimistic about getting the Registrar to update their information about students and pre-req courses.

Budget and Finance Committee - The Committee did not meet.

The Committee was asked to look at why the amount of scholarship monies has not increased over that last 3 years.

Ethics Committee - The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Committees - The Committee did not meet.

VI. New Business

- It was announced that there will be a brown bag open forum on April 13th to discuss concerns with the President.

- Dr. Rhodes announced that the next elections of Senate Officers will follow the new alignment of departments in the COAS and that announcements for nominations will occur shortly upon return from Easter break.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.