

**Faculty Senate Meeting
December 7, 2014
12:06 – 1:21 p.m.**

MINUTES

WHTC Room 125

I. Call to Order by President Ramirez at 12:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call, Present:

Alfredo Ramirez, Jr., Vivian Garcia, Marvin E. Bennett, John Maxstadt, Frances Gates Rhodes, Lynne L. Manganaro, James Norris, George Clarke, Leonel Prieto, Marcela Morán, Kimber Palmer

III. Approval of Minutes:

A vote was taken to approve the minutes of the November Senate meeting. With a correction in the exhibits to the minutes, they were unanimously approved.

IV. Our guests were given the floor:

A. Ms. Lisa Paul and Ms. Martha O. Gonzalez- Ms. Paul introduced Ms. Martha O. Gonzalez who, as of November 6, 2014, is TAMIU's Employee Relations/Title IX Coordinator. She will be coordinating training of all TAMIU personnel and faculty, including adjunct faculty, about Title IX issues and responsibilities. If any faculty has a Title IX issue, they should first fill out a Report It form online, and then contact Dr. Kevin Lindberg, who is the faculty contact for Title IX issues. They can also address any questions to Ms. Gonzalez. Jerry Alva serves as the Title IX contact for students.

B. Dr. Arenaz- SACS has given us their preliminary report which contained several concerns that TAMIU will have an opportunity to address before a final report is delivered. One issue was our failure to schedule the proper number of class meetings during the fall 2014 semester. We are required to provide 48 classroom hours (includes the 3 hours for final exam) per three-hour course. Changes have been made to the spring, 2015, semester calendar. Next fall we will begin around August 16, eliminate Fall Break, and ensure the proper number of classroom meeting times. Other issues will be addressed by the appropriate administrative personnel before a final report, but there is not a concern about the continuation of our accreditation.

Our commencement speaker this semester will be Tano Tijerina, a newly-elected Webb County judge. He is a TAMIU alumnus who will share his story of success. We will have approximately 530 graduating.

C. Juan G. Garcia- University Registrar shared the new system which will allow faculty to see a picture of a student (as long as one is in the system) while they are approving official

roster of students. He mentioned they are in the process of upgrading Degree Works and expect many of the problems people have experienced will be alleviated.

D. Randall Brown – Dr. Brown came representing the Athletic Department. He gave each senator a copy of the Bylaws of the Athletic Advisory Council and requested the Faculty Senate sponsor an election to fill the two faculty seats on said council. He would like to have the seats filled early in the spring semester. Dr. Rhodes indicated that there should be no problem in accomplishing that.

V. Faculty Senate Report on Executive Council Meetings

Dr. Ramirez reported that Roseanne Palacios has been hired as our new VP for Institutional Advancement. He also reported that the A&M Chancellor will be visiting TAMIU next week and requested a meeting with him and four or five other faculty, without anyone from the administration attending. Dr. Ramirez has secured the attendance of said faculty and will meet with the chancellor next week.

VI. Faculty Senate Vice President Report on Provost Council Meeting

No report was given, as there was no meeting of this Council.

VII. Reports from Committee Chairs

A. The Academic Oversight Committee, Dr. Gilberto Salinas

No report.

B. **The Budget and Finance Committee, Dr. George Clarke**

No report.

C. **The University Ethics Committee, Dr. Lynne Manganaro**

No report.

D. **The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees, Dr. Frances Rhodes**

No report.

E. **The Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morale, Dr. Qingwen Ni**

No report

F. **The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, Mr. John Maxstadt**

Mr. Maxstadt requested we re-approve the changes to the Faculty Handbook in order to comply with the 60-day requirement for submitting to the faculty at large. He made a motion that the four changes to the handbook, previously approved by the Senate, regarding external review letters, changing copyright language, changing procedure with the Scholar of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards, and the faculty constitution committee and voting rights issue be

reapproved. George Clarke seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The changes and their official language are attached to these minutes as Exhibit “A.”

G. The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee, Dr. Jim Norris

A meeting will take place next week.

H. The Technology Advisory Committee, Mr. Brendan Townsend

This committee is to meet next week.

I. The Assessment Committee, Ms. Kimber Palmer

No report.

VIII. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

IX. New Business

Dr. Rhodes stated a university wide election will take place early in the Spring semester as to the changes in the faculty handbook, elect members to the Athletic Advisor Council, changing the grading system, and other issues previously identified.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of creating an “Affiliate Graduate Faculty” designation for Fixed Term and Clinical Faculty. Dr. Brown provided information as to how Tarleton University handles such faculty status: “Affiliate members hold the terminal degree in their discipline and may be full-time or adjunct faculty. Affiliates teach graduate classes and serve on graduate committees and may co-chair committees but not serve as chair.” After some discussion, it was decided to table the issue until the February meeting.

At approximately 1:21 p.m., by acclamation, Dr. Ramirez adjourned the meeting.