Faculty Senate Meeting

December 8, 2017

2-4 p.m.

Island Hall 323

Minutes (Approved)

Senators Attending: Blalock, Bland, Comparini, Crocker, Day, Harrel, Klaus, Kownslar, Loveland, Martinez, McCollough, Mollick, Moreno, Murgulet, M. Reinhardt, Shope, Simionescu, Smith, Spaniol, Valadez, Watson, Withers

Ex-Officio and Guests Attending: Amy Aldridge Sanford, Roy Coons, Ed Evans, Ted Guffy, Kevin Houlihan, Ben Soto

1. Call to Order: Spaniol called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda: Valadez made a motion to approve the agenda. Withers seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the November Minutes: Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Withers seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Guest Speaker (Roy Coons): Coons passed out, and reviewed, a handout on “Bloodborne Pathogens Hazard Communication Training.” He said that he was asking all supervisors to make sure that all employees were taking the required training courses. The audience included adjuncts who work at multiple sites off campus. If these employees do not take the required training, they cannot work at those sites. He answered questions from faculty members.

5. Speaker’s Report (Spaniol): (1) The Provost’s search committee completed its work and forwarded a recommendation to President Quintanilla. (2) The Merit and Equity Task Force has already met twice. (3) Loveland sent out the faculty survey, and she is analyzing the results. (4) Smith announced the Student Veterans Lending Library, which was started by Dr. Jeff Dillard in Political Science. (5) Spaniol asked Loveland to work with the Senate’s Secretary on creating some brief bulleted points to distribute to faculty.

6. Old Business: On behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, Harrel introduced the Faculty Development Leave policy for senate approval. The policy was available to all senators, and FA requested comments by November 24. The committee met on December 1 and approved the document. Mollick made a motion for an amendment, but there was no second to the motion, so the first motion did not pass. The senate approved the document from Faculty Affairs with 1 opposing vote. In response to concerns that the policy did not comply with state law, Kevin Houlihan said that the A&M System Legal Office reviewed the policy before it was sent to senate, and they did not find any problems. However, Houlihan said that he could run the policy by system legal again.

7. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs (Valadez): The committee reviewed several hundred changes in the catalog copy from minor (non-substantial) changes to significant revisions and additions to programs. All senators had access to the proposed changes through Curriculog. To streamline the process, Valadez introduced the changes by college. An outline of those changes will be included as an attachment in the minutes for the December meeting. The votes on the revisions include:

College of Liberal Arts: Proposed graduate changes: Approved by senate with 1 abstention

College of Liberal Arts: Proposed undergraduate changes: Approved by senate with 1 abstention.

College of Business: Proposed graduate changes: Approved by senate with 2 abstentions.

College of Business: Proposed undergraduate changes: Approved by senate with 2 abstentions.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences: Doctor of Nursing Practice course changes: Approved unanimously.

College of Education and Human Development: Undergraduate course changes for Kinesiology: Approved unanimously.

Department of Undergraduate Studies: Honors catalog changes and course descriptions: Approved unanimously.

b. Faculty Affairs (Harrel):  (1) The Parental Leave Policy was introduced for Senate approval.  The senate approved the policy unanimously.  (2) The notice and comment documents that covered tuition and fees, as well as the academic continuity plan, were introduced to the senate and approved.  (3) The policies that include the University Curriculum Committee were introduced, and will be voted on, in January.

 c. Committee on Committees (Smith): No report at this time.

d. Awards, Bylaws and Elections Committee (Mollick): The applications for the six university excellence awards are still being accepted. The deadline will expire in January.

e. Budget Analysis (Klaus): (1) The committee is planning to meet with Terry Tatum in January, and they will discuss calculating summer teaching loads and dependent tuition benefits. (2) The Merit and Equity Task Force has good representation to discuss these issues. (3) Several senators asked the Budget Analysis Committee to consider how the university could provide summer school classes for the smaller academic programs, including the required courses. Klaus will look into these issues.

8. Liaison Reports:

(1) CPIRA: Withers reported that the search for the Compliance Director was completed, and the top candidate has been contacted. Also, at the last meeting, Terry Tatum made a presentation about how the financing with studies is handled. She will try to forward his PowerPoint presentation to the Senate.

(2) Valadez reported that the University Curriculum Committee will have its first meeting on February 2.

9. Provost’s Comments: (1) In addition to the Provost’s search committee, the university is conducting searches for two other VP positions. Candidates for the VP for Institutional Advancement and the VP for Marketing and Communications will be on campus soon. (2) A task force has been set up to ensure that university employees and students who work with minors will have background checks, first.

10. For the Good of the Order:

(1) Spaniol thanked Dr. Guffy for his service as the Interim Provost (if the December meeting was going to be his last).

(2) Loveland received 104 responses on the faculty survey. She will compile the results and report them at the January meeting.

(3) Ed Evans said that there had been a rash of phishing attacks on campus. Also, Campus IT has also been working on the implementation of Workday. In addition, the campus is rolling out a new service called Syncplicity, and people should contact IT if they have questions.

(4) Crocker reminded the senate that the First Year Learning Community students would be a good source of help for hurricane cleanup.

(5) Spaniol thanked Laura Marino for her service. Faculty Senate and Staff Council will begin interviews for Laura’s replacement the week of December 11.

11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Submitted by Edward Kownslar, Faculty Senate Secretary.

Submitted, with correction, 1/29/2018.