Attending: Acker, Ross, Bippert, Boham, Britt, Changchit, Comparini, Davis, Dinkens, Frost, Lee, McNamara, Metcalf, Moreno, Murgulet, Pletcher, Rao, Silliman, Starek, Waheeduzzaman, Warga, Zhao (via WebEx).

Ex-Officio and Guests: Amy Aldridge Sanford, Ed Evans, Franklin Harrison, Kevin Houlihan, Clarenda Phillips, Andy Piker.

1. Call to Order: Miguel Moreno called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
2. Announcements:
   1. In consultation with the COB senators, Dr. Mohan Rao has been appointed to complete the remainder of Dr. Deis’ term. Dr. Rao will serve as the COB representative on the Faculty Affairs committee and has expressed an interest in the Academic Affairs and the Budget Analysis committees.
   2. Dr. Nikki Changchit will represent the COB on the executive committee as the COB representative.
3. Approval of Agenda: Abu Waheeduzzaman moved to approve the agenda and Sean Britt seconded. Agenda was approved.
4. Approval of December 6, 2019 Minutes: Abu Waheeduzzaman moved to approve the minutes as amended and Sean Britt seconded. Minutes were approved.
5. Guest speakers: Lisa Louis, Department Head, research and Learning and Alexa Hight introduced the open educational resources (OER) faculty survey, to be sent out in the near future.
   1. Texas Senate Bill 810-2017 included several provisions related to OER. One is the requirement for OER course designations in course catalogs, schedules, and registration systems.
   2. Survey will collect data about the use of OER, the use of low cost (< $50) resources, and who is interested to learn more about OER.
   3. Discussion about OER and low-cost resources ensued.
6. Speaker’s Report:
   1. Search Committee for Dean for CONHS
      1. Search committee members reviewed the applicants and selected those to be interviewed.
      2. Airport interviews to be held in Houston.
   2. Graduate students support plan was announced at the President’s faculty and staff meeting. FS Speaker encouraged the administration to include stakeholders (faculty senates, graduate council and CIPRA) as the initiative moves forward.
   3. Chancellor Sharps has announced a system wide ban on vaping. This may develop into a ban on smoking also. Frank Harrison, chair of the wellness committee, commented that TAMUCC is one of four Texas A&M campuses that still allow smoking, though in designated areas. Discussion ensued.
   4. Parking & Transportation Committee
      1. FS senate is represented and news a new representative. Mikaela Boham is interested and since no one else declared an interest she was appointed to replace Kim Withers as the FS representative.
      2. Committee has not met in a year. Chief Guttierez is in the process of filling vacancies and a meeting will be scheduled soon.
      3. Concerns related to parking were voiced:
         1. A lack of transparency related to the new parking program
         2. No free parking anytime anywhere on campus will have negative impact on events, community relationships/engagement, and student recruitment. Senators of the CLA provided examples.
   5. Expectations of faculty with 9-month contracts:
      * 1. Faculty service beyond the 9-month contract should be recognized.
        2. A concern is that some faculty completely disregard communication attempts by the university, related to student issues, outside the 9-month timeframe.
7. Old Business: none
8. Committee Reports
   1. Academic Affairs (Sean Britt):
      1. The committee introduced three program changes:
         1. Civil Engineering BS program change
         2. Mechanical Engineering BS program change
         3. Science and Engineering: numbers and hours changes, course additions, and program changes.
      2. Updates on Courseleaf to come.
   2. Faculty Affairs (Lisa Comparini):
      1. The committee moved to approve the following three policies. The policies were approved unanimously.
         1. 12.01.99.C0.05, Faculty Dismissals, Administrative Leave, Non-Reappointments, and Terminal Appointments
         2. 12.99.01.C0.02, External Faculty Fellowships and Award
         3. Spousal Hire a policy proposed by a group of faculty.
      2. Discussion about spousal hire and the need for such a policy ensued.
   3. Committee on Committees (Emily Metcalf):
      1. University Committee on Committees to meet on Monday 1/27.
      2. Will find out which committees still need FS representatives.
   4. Awards, Bylaws and Elections (Bethany Pletcher):
      1. Faculty Excellence Awards: portfolios are due on 2/15
      2. Elections are coming soon. More about that in the next meeting.
   5. Budget Analysis (Dorina Murgulet):
      1. Requested data to be delivered around Feb 10th.
      2. Unable to use graduate assistant vouchers for recruiting at this time.
9. Liaison Reports:
   1. Staff Council (Frank Harrison):
      1. Collaborating with FS in concerns about parking issues.
      2. Please encourage faculty to vote for staff excellence awards on iEngage.
   2. CIPRA:
      1. There was discussion about the graduate assistant vouchers. Gathering more information.
      2. Processes for application for open access publishing funds.
         1. Manuscript has to be accepted before applying for funds.
         2. Students can apply as long as a faculty is an author also.
   3. Ed Evans:
      1. QEP: “iKnow” video is available on website, show your students.
      2. Math lab license available for everyone. This includes all toolboxes.
      3. Adobe license was for faculty only. Looking at a reduced cost purchasing option for students.
      4. Questions related to the loss of emails and password will be addressed individually.
10. Provost’s Comments (Clarinda Phillips):
    1. Starfish (an Early Alert Program) launch:
       1. Advisors will be trained to respond with interventions after midterm grades and faculty survey data are collected
       2. Faculty are asked to fill out the survey
       3. Faculty will have access to data in the future, including students’ performance in other classes
       4. More information about how to access starfish can be found here: <https://casa.tamucc.edu/retention_support_analytics/starfish.html>
    2. Last month’s concerns about low registration numbers were brought up by FS speaker. First year students’ registration from fall to spring usually is around 93% and dropped to around 90.5%. Summer enrollment has not been on radar but will be looked at.
    3. A concern that syllabi are not posted and CV’s that are posted are outdated, was brought forward. Provost will look into this.
    4. A question about the appropriateness of voicing presidential race predications was asked. As long as this is done as a private citizen (not in the capacity of faculty at TAMUCC) and not from university email it is considered freedom of speech.
11. For the Good of the Order:
    1. Miguel Moreno: Quality and efficiency have improved since Dr. Ballard and Dr. Gaynor joined the IRB office. Dr. Gaynor is leaving. IRB office in flux is not helpful to faculty.
    2. Sean Britt: Thanks for the shout out to the University Academic Affairs Committee at the president’s Faculty and Staff Meeting.
12. Adjourn: Abu Waheeduzzaman moved to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 15:42