Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2021

2:00-4:10 pm

Zoom Meeting

Quote related to one of The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz – Don’t take things personally.

*Nothing others do is because of you.*

*What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream.*

1. Call to Order: The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

Attendance:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Senators |  | Senators |  |
| Bernhardt, Ross | X | Johnson, Philip | X |
| Bippert, Kellie | X | Loika, Elizabeth | X |
| Bird, Chris | X | McNamara, Mark | X |
| Bonnette, Randy | 0 | Metcalf, Emily | X |
| Britt, Sean | X | Pattison, Dale | X |
| Changchit, Nikki | X | Perez, Miguel | X |
| Dinkens, Shelly | X | Pletcher, Bethanie | X |
| Edwards, Davey | 0 | Rangel, Pablo | X |
| Ekici, Celil | X | Rao, Mohan | X |
| Greene, Pam | X | Schuchs Carr, Isla | X |
| Hernandez, Patricia | X | Waheeduzzaman, Abu | X |
| Hollenbaugh, Michelle | X | Zhao, Chang | X |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ex-Officio**  **Visitors/Guests** | |
| Clarinda Phillips | Amy Aldridge-Sanford |
| Andy Piker | Ed Evans |
| Brenton Day | Kevin Houlihan |
| Toni Nerren | Karen McCaleb |

1. Approval of Agenda: Senator Ekici made a motion to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Senator Pattison. There was no discussion, the motion passed.
2. Approval of September 10 meeting minutes: Senator Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from September 10 with a correction to attendance. Senator Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. Reminder from the Speaker:
   1. Please use raise your hand function in Zoom to address the Senate.
   2. You must be acknowledged by the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) to speak.
   3. Three minutes is the maximum time allowed until others have had an opportunity to speak.
   4. You must wait until others have addressed the same topic before you speak a second time.
   5. The Speaker expressed appreciation to all in advance for using the rules to make for a productive and efficient meeting.
4. Guest Speakers
   1. Toni Nerren from Human Resources: Dual Career Partner Program
      1. A brief history was provided along with the need for the program. TAMUCC does not want to risk losing qualified faculty and/or staff if a partner/spouse is unable to find employment.
      2. The process was explained.
      3. This is not limited to newly hired faculty/staff.
      4. Questions were addressed by Ms. Nerren.
      5. One related topic had to do with tuition assistance for partners/spouses/and children of faculty and/or staff. Ms. Nerren acknowledged.
   2. Karen McCaleb, Dean of College of Graduate Studies: CGS Updates
      1. Dean McCaleb addressed a number of topics including orientation of new students, enhancement to graduate students identify, and fostering connections for stronger relationships with graduate students.
      2. Graduate enrollment numbers from fall 2019, fall 2020, and fall 2021 was provided.
      3. Scholarship Achievement in Graduate Education (SAGE) along with other opportunities such as assistantships and fellowships were mentioned.
      4. Current Initiatives: Graduate Faculty Representative (GFR) trainings, development of the Center for Integration of Research Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), and preparation for the professoriate were included in the presentation.
5. Speaker’s Report
   1. Student Engagement Resolution update provided by Senator Greene:
      1. William Whitworth, TAMU-CC Student Government Association (SGA) President, attended our Executive Committee meeting because he was unable to make today’s Faculty Senate meeting.
      2. The SGA has recently had a visit from the Student Regent, who is appointed by Governor Abbot.
      3. National Voter Registration Day – SGA assisted more than 50 students with becoming registered voters.
      4. There have been challenges in filling key leadership positions with the SGA. These positions are now filled.
      5. SGA is instrumental in the Wind Jam campus activity (occurring today).
      6. Now that key positions are filled and Wind Jam will be over, SGA can focus on a multi-pronged campaign to stop the spread of COVID-19 (Student Engagement Resolution). This campaign will include the use of social media. SGA welcomes suggestions.
   2. Enrollment
      1. Flat
      2. Up 16% first-time students
      3. Up 3% new graduate students
      4. Up 22% continuing graduate students
      5. Down continuing juniors and seniors, especially Hispanic students
      6. 11.4% jump in graduation (This was clarified further. This falls within the four to six-year category.)
      7. Focus is on student retention
   3. Class sizes and classrooms
      1. The Speaker discussed class size and classrooms with both President and Provost
      2. Response: Generally, class size and rooms are “back to normal.”
      3. Due to the configuration of fixed furniture that cannot be moved and other similar issues, movement is restricted and may limit social distancing.
      4. Creative scheduling may be one option for the future i.e., Friday or even weekend classes
      5. Additional sections may be needed
   4. Chancellor’s visit: Deputy Speaker Hollenbaugh shared information from the meeting with the Chancellor.
      1. $350 million dollars in new funding was awarded to the A&M system by the state legislators
      2. Clinical Professors and Adjunct pay along with staff salaries was addressed
      3. The idea of a merger between TAMUCC and TAMUK is “dead.”
      4. More detailed notes will be forthcoming. Senators may want to contact their representatives on Faculty Senate Exec. Committee for more information.
   5. Program Assistant for Faculty Senate
      1. LaNiece Tucker has relocated with her family
      2. Sharmeen Ahmed, President of Staff Council, and the Speaker have put together a revised job description to enable the search. The new title will be Program Assistant.
      3. Cadence Olivares will be helping Faculty Senate with crucial items. The Speaker has been managing much of the administrative work. Patience is requested.
   6. Campus-wide COVID testing initiative
      1. 8,600 tested; there has been a 0.6% positivity rate; there are consequences for not testing, including having to do a special COVID training
      2. COVID testing kiosk located in “cat alley” is available for faculty, students, and staff, M-F, 8-6; there is still testing in the Health Center
   7. CUPA data
      1. The Speaker does have access to CUPA data reports for salary; however, senators were asked to encourage faculty to contact their respective deans for this information.
   8. AAUP items
      1. The Speaker and Kelly Bezio have discussed a number of issues and have others to address in a meeting to be scheduled soon.
      2. I-CARE: Faculty report the online form for referring students to I-CARE is lengthy and a possible deterrent, which means students may not be getting the help they need; faculty report poor follow-up and service to students; instead of being supportive, I-CARE seems to have become overly automated and impersonal
         1. In response to this concern, the Speaker is scheduling a meeting with the new VP of SEAS: I am trying to set up a meeting with Adrian Rodriguez, the new VP of SEAS
         2. The Speaker plans to invite the VP to speak at an upcoming Senate meeting
      3. Adjuncts
         1. The Speaker has addressed salary for adjuncts – an ongoing issue, with the Provost and President.
            1. The concern was met with a question: Are there places where adjuncts are used when they shouldn’t be? Perhaps a study is in order.
         2. Non-tenure track, contingent faculty may be forced to expose themselves to COVID-19 at higher rates than others, due to inequitable expectations they (non-tenure track) teach face-to-face
            1. The response to this concern: A study can be conducted to investigate; however, it is really college- and department-specific
   9. Vaccination Incentive Program
      1. Kick-off October 1
      2. See email from President Miller for more specific information
   10. Future of hybrid and remote instruction (Senator Britt is serving on the Online Program Plan and Implementation Team and will report further with the Academic Affairs Committee report.)
       1. Currently, this committee is identifying programs that are struggling with F2F; exploring new programs that can be developed for being fully online, and considering the resources needed.
       2. The committee is also looking at the work hours required to move courses to an online format.
   11. Merit
       1. An announcement is expected in the near future.
6. Old Business
   1. ECDC
      1. President Miller has spoken with COEHD Dean and CCISD Superintendent about overcoming research barriers and making the ECDC more of a lab school
      2. A committee is expected to be formed soon to help make plans and implement the necessary steps to overcome the barriers.

Speaker Pletcher handed the meeting leadership to Deputy Speaker Hollenbaugh.

1. Committee Reports
   1. Academic Affairs – Senator Britt
      1. Introduce proposals – A list of proposals that will be reviewed in October was provided. These will be reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and results presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting for a vote.
      2. All of the proposals presented at the September meeting of the Faculty Senate were reviewed and approved by the UCC with the exception of BIO 5330 and BIO 5413. Both needed more complete syllabi. They were tabled and will be re-considered at the Oct. UCC meeting.

Senator Metcalf made a motion to approve all proposals approved by the UCC. Senator Hernandez seconded. The motion passed following a brief discussion.

* + 1. Update Online Program Plan Implementation Team: Senator Britt indicated the focus is to organize and have a strategic method for the implementation of programs that are to be completely online.
    2. The Dean of CLA is involved with reviewing the learning communities including the living and learning communities.
  1. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections (ABE) – Senator Hollenbaugh
     1. Regents Award is under review.
     2. Constitution changes update will be needed due to changes with DINS.
     3. An appeal from DINS (formerly UC) Senators, Senators Britt and McNamara, was introduced for consideration. ABE will bring recommendations to the November meeting of the Faculty Senate.
  2. Budget Analysis – Senator Ekici
     1. The University Budget Advisory Council (BAC) met on September 29. Senator Ekici will meet with the Budget Advisory Committee to share information from the BAC and update Faculty Senate at the November Meeting. Senator Rao also serves on the BAC.
  3. Committee on Committees – Senator Hernandez
     1. Updates on committees: A representative from the COB was needed on the Academic Affairs Committee. Senator Rao agreed to continue serving.
  4. Faculty Affairs – Senator Johnson
     1. Introduce policies
        1. **15.99.06.C1, Use of Biohazards in Research, Teaching, and Testing**
           1. Firm system deadline
           2. Very minor edits
        2. **15.99.07.C1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing**
           1. Firm system deadline
           2. Very minor edits
        3. **11.99.99.C0.02, Co-Curricular Services to Minors**
           1. Very minor edits
        4. **33.05.02.C0.01, Required Training for Employees and Affiliates**
           1. Very minor edits
        5. **61.99.99.C0.02, Web Presence**
           1. Complete re-write

Additional policies:

* + - 1. **32.01.01c0.01 – Complaint and Appeal Process for Faculty Members**
      2. **12.06.00.c0.01 Post-tenure Review**
    1. A motion was brought from the Faculty Affairs Committee by Senator Johnson to approve:
       1. **33.99.04.c0.02 Promotion of Faculty Members**
       2. **12.01.99.c0.01 Academic Rank Descriptors**
       3. **33.99.99.c0.02 Performance Reviews of Faculty Members**

Discussion was divided to cover each of the proposed documents which was posted for members of faculty senate to review in advance. There was clarification regarding where the most current documents were posted.

Kevin Houlihan was consulted for clarification and provided options for language.

* + 1. A motion to table: **33.99.04.c0.02 Promotion of Faculty Members** was made by Senator Schuchs Carr and seconded by Senator Metcalf. Faculty Affairs committee will review and work further on this. This motion passed.
    2. Senator Britt moved to approve **12.01.99.c0.01 Academic Rank Descriptors** and **33.99.99.c0.02 Performance Reviews of Faculty Members.** Senator Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

Senator McNamara made a motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes. Senator Changchit seconded. The motion passed.

1. New Business
   1. Training requirements for new faculty
      1. Trainings for new faculty have become overwhelming. Not a lot that can be done this year; however, if ACUE addresses all the material for faculty that needs to be addressed, it may be possible to drop the other program, Quality Matters.
   2. IRB process concerns
      1. Michelle Hollenbaugh – each college does have representation on the IRB. Individuals are encouraged to use their college representative when questions or concerns arise. Rebecca Ballard, Director of Research Compliance is also available to hear concerns directly.
   3. Parking
      1. If you have a parking garage pass, you may also park anywhere on campus (verified through Chief Gutierrez)
   4. Research software
      1. The Speaker and Senator Rangel are meeting with Ed Evans soon to address concerns regarding the ability to download research software –
   5. Graduate student stipends
      1. COSE has brought up the issue of graduate student stipends.
2. Liaison Reports
   1. CPIRA – Senator Ekici reported on issues being addressed currently in CPIRA:
      1. Support needed related to contracts
      2. Post Award Administration
      3. IRB/compliance issues – CPIRA is considering making a request for a “townhall” meeting with IRB.
      4. Financial Literacy
      5. Intellectual Property
      6. Select Train Traq trainings
      7. Post-tenure reviews
   2. Graduate Council – Senator Schuchs Carr indicated there were no substantive updates.
   3. IT – Ed Evans: No updates at this time.
   4. Staff Council – Brenton Day
      1. Cleanup of the Wet-Lands continues.
      2. Halloween Break-in-the-Day event is upcoming
      3. Staff Council is exploring the opportunity for have a Child Care Center on Campus
      4. The Campaign for faculty and staff to donate to state-wide charities is underway (these charities are not university related)
3. Provost’s Comments: Due to schedule demands, the Provost left her comments in the chat:
   1. 85% participation in the Starfish progress reports
   2. Christina Navia, Chief Diversity Officer will start October 17, 2021
   3. All are invited with their families to the laser show at 8 pm this evening – come to the East Lawn
4. For the good of the order
   1. Flu shot clinic - September 29, October 7 and 13, 10-1 Jetty Room
      1. COVID testing kiosk – “Cat Alley” available for faculty, students, and staff, M-F, 8-6.
   2. On the calendar (https://tamucc-staging.lwcal.com/)
      1. Hispanic Heritage Month
      2. Islander Family Weekend
      3. State of the University
   3. Textbook adoption and OERs – Senator Metcalf indicated even when faculty are not using textbooks, noting that helps identify affordable/low cost courses which is helpful for students’ decision-making
   4. A Campus Conversation: Invisible Disabilities panel discussion will occur on October 20 at Noon in the University Center Anchor Ballroom.  Our new Chief Diversity officer, Chris Navia, will moderate this great panel discussion
5. Adjourn – Senator Changchit made the motion to adjourn at 4:10 pm

Submitted by Pam Greene

Secretary, Faculty Senate