

Faculty Senate  
March 11, 2022 Minutes  
2:00-5:15 pm  
UC Lonestar 142

*Part of teaching is helping people create themselves.*  
-Maxine Greene

1. Faculty Senate photo
2. Call to Order by Speaker Pletcher at 2:07 pm  
Attendance:  
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Senators		Senators	
Bernhardt, Ross	X	Loika, Elizabeth	X*
Bippert, Kellie	X *	McNamara, Mark	X
Bonnette, Randy	0	Medrano, Antonio	X
Britt, Sean	X	Metcalf, Emily	X
Changchit, Chuleeporn	X	Murgulet, Valeriu	X
Dinkens, Shelly	0	Pattison, Dale	X
Ekici, Celil	X	Perez, Miguel	X
Gevrek, Deniz	X*	Pletcher, Bethanie	X
Greene, Pam	X	Rangel, Pablo	X
Hernandez, Patricia	0	Schuchs Carr, Isla	X
Hollenbaugh, Michelle	X	Waheeduzzaman, Abu	0
Johnson, Philip	X	Zhao, Qihong	0
Schneider, Corbin, Faculty Senate/Staff Council Program Assistant			X

\*Attended virtually

Ex-Officio Visitors/Guests	
Clarinda Phillips	Ed Evans
Adrian Rodriguez	Kevin Houlihan
Kelly Bezio	Andrew Johnson
Brenton Day	Andy Piker
Tara Carlisle	Jill Ratliff
Emily Sartorius	Kyle Anderson

3. Approval of Agenda: Sen. Britt made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sen. Pattison. Motion passed.
4. Approval of February 11 meeting minutes: Sen. Medrano made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sen. Bernhardt. The motion passed.

## 5. Guest Speakers

- a. Adrian Rodriguez, VP SEAS  
Information was provided about the three pillars of student engagement and success including initiatives associated with each pillar and personnel assigned. SEAS is positioned to be “student ready.”
- b. Tara Carlisle, QEP Director & Emily Sartorius  
An update regarding the levels and phases of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) implementation was provided. Level 1 implementation is currently in progress and preparation for level 2 is underway.
- c. Andrew Johnson, Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign & Kyle Anderson, Institutional Advancement  
The 2022 Faculty and Staff Campaign was explained with details about the various ways faculty and staff could contribute. The overall goal is 100% participation. In 2021, participation was approximately 35%. The dates of the campaign are March 21-April 29.

## 6. Speaker’s Report

- a. External review process – Fall 2022
- b. A Senator had asked about the Javelina Promise from TAMU-K. President Miller indicated TAMU-CC has something similar, the Islander Guarantee. The program is expanding and marketing the program is changing. For additional details, see: <https://www.tamucc.edu/cost-and-aid/financial-aid/info-for-students/guarantee.php>
- c. Dean searches
  - i. COS
    - 1. First-round virtual interviews were conducted with 10 candidates; committee selected 3 for on-campus interviews
  - ii. COE
    - 1. In the process of reviewing candidates for first-round virtual interviews
- d. Chief HR Officer search is expected to begin in March
- e. Ombuds
  - i. One application received so far.
  - ii. An email blast has been sent out to continue advertising the opening which will remain open until March 25.
  - iii. Executive Committee and Andy Piker are meeting with candidate after Spring Break.
- f. President Miller has been invited to speak at the April 8 meeting of Faculty Senate. It will be the last meeting of 2021-2022 Senate. The President is planning on launching the Strategic Plan in the fall.

## 7. Old Business

- a. Mascot update – Sen. Johnson
  - i. A design has been vetted with a number of university groups.
  - ii. Currently a manufacturer has the design and a summer or fall reveal is expected.

- iii. The pronoun “they” will be used for Izzy, whoT will represent all Islanders.
- iv. The design is expected to allow for costume changes.

b. Land Acknowledgement – Sen. Pattison

Progress has been slow. A speaker from a local Indigenous community is expected to present at the Humanities Fair in October.

8. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs – Senator Britt

- i. Committee Chair for 2022-2023 is needed. Sen. Britt will assist with the transition.
- ii. The proposed baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Development was approved by the university curriculum committee. Sen. Metcalf made a motion to approve the proposed program; the motion was seconded by Sen. Schuchs Carr. The motion passed.

b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections (ABE) – Senator Hollenbaugh

- i. Elections: Nominations for senators are open until March 16. Elections will begin on March 21. Ballots will be counted on March 25. If a run-off is needed, that will be April 1.
- ii. Awards: The review of nominations for faculty excellence awards is expected to be completed soon.
- iii. Committee chair for 2022-2023 is needed.
- iv. The committee will meet to consider the composition of ABE going forward.

c. Budget Analysis – Senator Ekici

- i. Committee chair for 2022-2023 is needed.
- ii. There are no scheduled meetings for the Budget Advisory Committee.
- iii. A template has been prepared, based on the Budget Think Tank Report. The template will be sent to departments to get information related to efficiencies. There are concerns regarding the implications and impact where there has been under-enrollment.
- iv. Senators are asked to solicit input from faculty regarding:
  - 1. Ideas to increase enrollment
  - 2. Ideas on strategies used by other similar universities
  - 3. Impact of online vs. traditional (Face-to-face)
- v. Questions remain regarding how the new vision and mission will align with the strategic plan.

d. Committee on Committees (COC)– Sen. Metcalf reported for Sen. Hernandez

- i. Committee chair for 2022-2023 is needed.
- ii. The gathering input for the evaluation of university counsels is on track.
- iii. The Faculty Interest survey will launch on March 22. Senators are asked to encourage their constituents to complete the survey which will be open for two weeks.
- iv. COC will use the information from the surveys to make recommendations.

e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Johnson

- i. Items for consideration were presented and recommendations from the committee were explained, item-by-item. Kevin Houlihan assisted with clarification in the process. Sen. Johnson brought the motion from the committee for approval. Following a brief discussion, the motion passed.
  1. 12.01.99.C0.02 Academic Freedom
  2. 12.01.99.C0.05 Faculty Dismissals, Administrative Leave, Non-Reappointments, and Terminal Appointments
  3. 12.01.99.C0.06 Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty Members
  4. 12.01.99.C1 Granting Extension of Tenure Probationary Period
  5. 12.07.99.C0.01 Fixed-Term Faculty Members
  6. 13.02.99.C0.01 Student Complaints Regarding Employees
- ii. Committee Chair for 2022-2023 is needed.
- iii. Introduce new policies, procedures which will be available to all senators before the next of Faculty Senate:
  1. 11.99.99.C0.04, Approval of the Academic Calendar
    - a. Revised to align with the current process
  2. 11.XX.XX.C1, Extra-Institutional Learning Experience
    - a. New rule required by system to address granting credit for extra-institutional experiences
    - b. Will be given a number when the system policy & regulation are numbered and published
  3. 31.01.99.C0.01, Approval of Supplemental Pay and Dual Employment
    - a. Revised to reflect the current process (Workday)

9. Liaison Reports

- a. CPIRA – Sen. Rangel
  - i. There is encouragement for more engagement with the community, beyond personal research interests.
  - ii. The Spring Student Research Symposium is scheduled for April 8.
  - iii. Salaries that are not competitive for T.A.s, G.A.s, and R.A.s continue to be a source of concern.
  - iv. Survey on the COVID impact was discussed.
  - v. Funds are still available for open access publication. Funds are renewed at the beginning of each fiscal year.
- b. Graduate Council – Sen. Schuchs Carr
  - i. The compensation concerns for T.A.s, G.A.s, and R.A.s is an issue within Grad Council as well as CPIRA. Additionally, there are concerns about the lack of tuition reimbursement and lack of stipends. There are those who are not eligible to hold external employment.
  - ii. Graduate Faculty applications are being reviewed.
- c. IT – Ed Evans
  - i. There is a new service portal for help requests, reports, and checking the status of a request. Emails and phone requests can still be submitted.
  - ii. Linked in Learning with Bb is in final testing.
  - iii. IT will be involved with CLIMB

- iv. Digital Transformation – focusing on the effective use of technology we have available.
- d. Staff Council – Brett Day
  - i. A restructure to enhance function and alignment with the university is planned.
  - ii. Elections will begin March 22.
  - iii. Staff Council is involved with Continuous Learning Islanders Made Better (CLIMB).
- e. American Association of University Professors (AAUP) – Kelly Bezio
  - i. Two issues are currently a priority. First, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick’s stance on tenure and academic freedom. The second is the issue of state agencies investigating parents providing gender-affirming care. Both issues prompted discussion.
- f. Course Evaluations – Sen. Changchit
  - i. The focus of changing the evaluation is on gathering student feedback on instruction. Questions are expected to be shorter and more clear. All questions are expected to apply to online and face-to-face delivery.
  - ii. The timeline for the course survey evaluation period is being clarified.
  - iii. If possible, the revised evaluation will be implemented fall semester 2022.
  - iv. There will be another meeting of this committee following spring break.

#### 10. Provost’s Comments

- a. Starfish: 86% of faculty responded through starfish.
- b. Issues with course materials are being addressed with the Campus Store, formerly known as the book store.
- c. A process for wait listing, beginning fall semester, is being developed. This will help with planning and keep students on track with their degree plans.
- d. Beginning fall semester, instructional methods will be clearer.
  - i. Synchronous or asynchronous needs to be indicated.
  - ii. In-Person (face-to-face) can have up to 24% online.
  - iii. Blended = 25 – 84% online
  - iv. Online = 85% or more
- e. Distance education fees will also be simplified.
  - i. Blended = \$75.00 fee
  - ii. Online = \$100.00 fee
  - iii. E-line = \$200.00 fee
- f. Adjunct Faculty
  - i. Office space for adjuncts is still being identified
  - ii. Evaluations of adjuncts are needed for their professional development and teaching effectiveness to ensure instructional quality.
- g. Associate Provost Candidates – Three will be on campus in early April.
- h. COS Dean Candidates: All are invited to the presentations. These candidates are potential leaders for the campus.
- i. Center for Interdisciplinary Efforts: Dean Scott is serving as the interim leader for this initiative. It involves the CLA, COEHD, and CONHS will focus on community-based research initiatives.

4:00 pm Sen. Britt made a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Sen. Pattison seconded. The motion passed

## 11. New Business

### a. Possible threat to tenure

#### i. Statement from system

1. *As a public university system we appreciate the Legislature's support to help our institutions recruit leading faculty to solve some of society's most pressing problems. We look forward to sitting down with state leaders at the appropriate time to discuss how we can continue to lead the nation in recruiting and retaining the brightest minds for teaching and retaining the brightest minds for teaching and research critical to the future prosperity of Texas.*

2. I don't think we should write anything formal from Senate – it may fuel the fire. I feel that most, if not all, faculty will come together to protest this should he choose to make it an issue.

ii. Following discussion, Sen. McNamara made a motion to convene a volunteer group from faculty senate to draft a statement from the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded by Sen. Ross. There was discussion. The motion passed. Sen. McNamara agreed to serve as the chair for this group.

### b. External Review

i. The timeline and associated concerns regarding the absence of written policies and procedures were articulated in discussion. The Provost offered clarifying remarks.

4:30 pm Sen. Hollenbaugh made a motion to extend the meeting 30 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sen. Metcalf. The motion passed.

4:40 pm Sen. Hollenbaugh made a motion to go into a closed session. Sen. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

\*\*\*Close meeting\*\*\*

c. First Year Seminar and Learning Communities concerns were discussed at length.

4:45 p.m. Sen. Hollenbaugh made a motion to extend the meeting to 5:15 pm. Sen. Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A robust discussion continued.

## 12. For the good of the order:

a. April 8 Student Research Symposium

13. Adjourn: at 5:15, Sen. Johnson made the motion to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by  
Pam Greene, Faculty Senate Secretary