Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2021
2:00-4:16 pm
UC Bayview 320

“The difficult I’ll do right now.
The impossible will take a little while.”
-Billie Holiday

1. Call to Order: 2:05 pm
   Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senators</th>
<th>Senators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernhardt, Ross</td>
<td>McNamara, Mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bippert, Kellie</td>
<td>Medrano, Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnette, Randy</td>
<td>Metcalf, Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britt, Sean</td>
<td>Murgulet, Valeriu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changchit, Chuleeporn</td>
<td>Pattison, Dale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinkens, Shelly</td>
<td>Perez, Miguel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekici, Celil</td>
<td>Pletcher, Bethanie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene, Pam</td>
<td>Rangel, Pablo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernandez, Patricia</td>
<td>Rao, Mohan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollenbaugh, Michelle</td>
<td>Schuchs Carr, Isla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Philip</td>
<td>Waheeduzzaman, Abu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loika, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Zhao, Chang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Approval of Agenda: Approved by consensus.
3. Approval of November 12 meeting minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Bippert; seconded by Senator Hernandez. The motion passed.
4. Guest Speaker
   a. Chris Navia – Chief Diversity Officer described her background and shared her ideas about co-collaboration to identify critical next strategic steps and priorities. She explained her vision of having a collective agenda that was for the entire university. Dr. Navia entertained questions and promoted discussion.
5. Speaker’s Report
   a. Campus beautification
i. President Miller mentioned there is a campus beautification committee that is looking at installing a mural by a local artist and alum as well as sculptures created by alums.

ii. The committee is being more strategic about art and its placement.

b. Dean of COS search

i. Search committee had a kick-off meeting right before Thanksgiving break

ii. The committee identified desired qualifications, qualities, and experiences which include:

1. Scholarship
2. Someone who’s at an R2 or higher
3. Progressive administrative experience
4. Successful recruitment background
5. Community engagement
6. Support of faculty and students
7. Open to events
8. Can understand the different needs of faculty in life sciences and math
9. Willing to talk with faculty and listen to faculty input
10. Build a mentorship program

iii. Opportunities and challenges

1. Involvement with community

iv. Points of pride

1. Culture of COS
2. Great talents within COS

v. Recruitment firm will recruit Dec-Feb

vi. Application deadline is Feb 9

c. Strategic plan and service excellence

i. Evaluations from “customers” for services provided across campus

d. Spring and fall enrollment

i. Students are registering later

ii. Spring 2022 is catching up with spring 2021

iii. Fall 2022 is looking good

e. AAUP and Faculty Senate Collaboration

i. Kelly Bezio and Speaker Pletcher have been communicating regarding shared concerns. Bezio has been invited to attend meetings of the Faculty Senate to provide updates as a liaison. Current shared concerns:

ii. Adjuncts

1. Possibility of a raise in pay
2. Provost will discuss with deans “basic amenities” for adjuncts
3. Access to copiers and other provisions
4. Shared space or available classrooms where adjuncts could hold office hours as needed / workspace for adjuncts

iii. Notice of appointment letters

1. Provost has worked on streamlining the process
2. The goal for fall NOAs is Friday before the welcome back week for faculty
3. Summer NOAs are trickier because some classes do not make
iv. TAMU-CC pay for women and people of color: Dr. Navia acknowledged the concern and indicated a plan to begin with collecting relevant data.

f. Online course review
   i. Referring to the February 2021 email from the Provost that said online courses needed to be reviewed by what was then ODELT:
      1. This is not the case at this point
      2. Faculty have training in best practices in online learning, and it is hoped that they will reach out for support as needed

g. Academic calendar
   i. See attached notes at the end of the minutes.

h. Faculty trainings
   i. Recommendation will go to the President’s Cabinet that all trainings are to be completed during faculty contract time
   ii. One issue is that when a training is completed, there is an automatic reset for one year from the date completed.

i. ECDC
   i. Most faculty members are advising students to conduct their research elsewhere, due to the CCISD external research office personnel
   ii. There is a new MOU with the ECDC that mentions research which hopefully will help efforts to increase collaborative work between the university and ECDC

j. Mascot
   i. Senator Bonnette wrote a great letter, however, the recommendations from the committee had already been forwarded to other groups, along with the renderings. President Miller did mention her interest in having an animal as well as Izzy.
   ii. The letter was sent letter to John Palumbo.
   iii. Leftover Izzy images (e.g., pool table, food truck) still need identified and removed.
   iv. The Student Government Association suggested using the pronouns they and them as a way to be more gender neutral.
   v. Overall, there has been a favorable response to the initial images which are described as “humanoid” and could wear different uniforms for sports or specialty areas.
   vi. A better rendering is expected which will then be distributed for further input.

6. Old Business - None

7. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs – Senator Britt
      i. Streamlined curriculum review will be explained further at the January meeting of Faculty Senate. The committee is recommending the items for expedited review be determined by the committee and not voted on by Faculty Senate.
      ii. See printouts of policies (distributed).
      iii. Feedback from full Senate will be requested at the January meeting of Faculty Senate.
iv. It is time to consider who will be the next AA Chair.

b. Awards, Bylaws, & Elections – Senator Hollenbaugh
   i. Recommendations for By-Laws/Constitution edits are being prepared for review by the Senate in January with voting expected at the February meeting.
   ii. Faculty Excellence awards – the full portfolio of nominees are due by February 14.

c. Budget Analysis – Senator Ekici
   i. The University Budget Advisory Committee meeting was held Dec. 9 (the day before this Faculty Senate meeting). The Faculty Senate Budget Analysis Committee is scheduled to meet.
      1. Questions are arising about the evaluation of existing programs and efficiencies. A dashboard is being developed. The development process has taken longer than expected. It should facilitate gathering input from deans and department heads which can then be shared.
      2. Benchmark metrics at the university level and department level are being addressed as phasing in of commitments are underway. For example, for faculty salaries, a six year plan was established to phase in adjustments. We are currently in the fourth year of that plan. Data is used in the process.
      3. Enrollment numbers continue to be critical. The numbers appear promising for the coming year.
      4. CIP Funding: More training is needed to ensure proper coding to take full advantage of the available funds.

d. Committee on Committees – Senator Hernandez
   i. Kevin Houlihan is reviewing all committees and the structure. There is consideration for offering an orientation to new chairs at the university level.

e. Faculty Affairs – Senator Johnson
   i. 12.06.99.C0.01, Post-Tenure Review (tabled at the November meeting of Faculty Senate.)
      1. An e-mail was sent to all senators with suggested changes and opportunities for all to provide additional input. Following a robust discussion with questions, and time for clarification, Senator Johnson brought a motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee to approve with the suggested changes. The motion passed.
   ii. Senator Johnson brought a motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee to accept the five items presented at the November meeting of the Faculty Senate. All five items were posted in advance with recommendations for changes and opportunities for further input. The five included:
      1. 26.01.99.C0.01, Tuition and Fees
      2. 33.99.03.C0.02, Performance Reviews of Academic Administrators
      3. 33.99.08.C0.01, Student Employment
      4. 33.99.08.C0.02, Graduate Assistants
5. **33.99.08.C0.03, Student Internships**
   The motion passed.
   iii. No new items were introduced.

8. **New Business**
   a. Faculty course evaluations - closed early this year. The committee working on revising the course evaluations continues to work on the evaluation questions and process.
   b. Land acknowledgement: Senator Pattison explained the ultimate aim is to have support from Faculty Senate and involvement from Dr. Navia.
      i. Gather information from colleges:
         1. **CLA (revision of TAMU-CC description)**
            a. Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi is a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) of more than 12,000 students located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Karankawa people from the Texas Gulf Coast. Historically, our local indigenous collectives also include the Lipan Apache, Tonkawa, Comanche, and Coailitechan. Located on its own island, the university offers degrees at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels and more than eighty-degree programs. Our student population is reflective of our region, with nearly 50% Hispanic enrollment. More than 40% of our students are first-generation college students.
         2. **COEHD (for use in community-facing COEHD events)**
            a. “I come to you today from the geographic area colonized as Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, a coastal community bordering the Gulf of Mexico. This space on Turtle Island was originally inhabited by the Nde [end e] or Lipan [Lēpan] Apache, the Karankawa, and the Coahuiletecan [Cō – ā – wheel – ta – cân] peoples, among others whose tribal and nation names we have unfortunately forgotten. Our gratitude to the land and water and to the indigenous people who have and who continue to steward both. May we all commit today to eradicate the erasure of Indigenous cultures wherever we live.”
         c. **Open COSE seats for spring 2022**
            i. Valeriu Murgulet will finish this year for Chris Bird. An election will be needed to elect a senator to serve the second year of Senator Bird’s term (2022-2023).
            ii. Antonio Medrano will serve the remainder of Senator Davey’s term (Davey’s term is up 2022).
   d. **Format of Senate meetings**
      i. The university operations is expected to return to “regular” in spring 2022 barring any Covid case upticks.
      ii. Buddy system for December tried to facilitate senators’ participation from a remote location. (The senator who is planning to be remote arranges
with a senator attending the meeting face-to-face to open a ZOOM link on a device for the remote participation.

iii. Monthly reevaluations of the format and buddy system will be used to facilitate safe, optimal participation.

e. Possible adjustment of Senate meeting time
   i. Faculty Senate Executive Committee evaluated changing the meeting time.
   ii. Rooms for spring meetings have been reserved. Rather than change for Spring 2022, it was decided to until Fall 202

f. Meet & Greet: Staff Council and Faculty Senate will have an informal gathering January 28 at 2 pm. More details will be forthcoming.

9. Liaison Reports
   a. CPIRA – Senator Ekici provided information on internal and external grant deadlines and the range of funding available. There will be a grant-writing workshop scheduled for May 31 and July 1.
   b. Graduate Council – Senator Schuchs Carr: no report
   c. IT – Ed Evans
      i. Migration of one drive nearly finished
      ii. WebEx will be available through January. Anyone needing assistance saving WebEx recordings can contact IT. The platforms being used by the university are Zoom and Microsoft Teams.
      iii. Information regarding the state law related to cloud-based security reviews was discussed. The impact acknowledged.
   d. Staff Council – Brent Day
      i. Elections are upcoming.
      ii. The council is reviewing organization efficiencies.
      iii. There is an events calendar on the web page. This can be used to help promote activities for Faculty Senate.

Senator Changchit made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Hernandez. The motion passed.

e. AAUP – Scott Johnson explained he or a representative from AAUP would like to present on issues related to shared governance, academic freedom, promotion and tenure, and other topics of shared interest with Faculty Senate. AAUP can contribute information from other AAUP chapters.

10. Provost’s Comments
   a. Course Evaluations: The initiative to revise the faculty course evaluation and administration of the evaluation along with how the data are used continues.
   b. Transformation: A grant from the Gates Foundation will focus on closing equity gaps and improve success for all students.
   c. Formula Funding (Count Year): Starting summer 2022, “counting” for formula funding will be addressed by strategically managing the courses offered and who is assigned to teach courses. One example of what is considered has to do with the increase in funding when a course is taught by tenured faculty. Department Chairs are aware of considerations to optimize funding.
d. There was an earlier dip in enrollment. That dip impacts the number of students available to progress over the next two to four years.

e. Interfolio workshops: One important lesson learned is information needs provided in advance. Recordings of the workshops will be available online and assistance will be made available.

f. Interim Associate Provost: Amy Aldridge-Sanford is leaving TAMUCC. Jill Ratliff has been appointed to serve as interim.

11. For the good of the order
   a. Bluesday Tuesday t-shirts are available.
   b. The Speaker thanked all who attended the Faculty/Staff Council Social. Kellie Smith from CFE reported close to a record number of attendees.
   c. Upcoming University events
      i. https://tamucc-staging.lwcal.com/
   d. Appreciation was expressed to Senator Rao for his service on Faculty Senate. He was awarded Faculty Development Leave for Spring 2022 Semester. Deniz Gevrek will serve on the senate in Senator Rao’s place for the coming semester.
   e. Principles related to fixed and variable costs with the budget considerations were brought forward. These principles need to be considered by representatives on the Budget Advisory Committee and members of Faculty Senate.

12. Adjourn – Senator Ross made the motion to adjourn.
Academic Calendar notes:

- There are 15 weeks in a semester, with the last week being exams. There should then be 70 days (14*5). If we look at the counts for the first 7 week term, which ended last Friday, we can see the error. If we start on a Monday, we should end on a Friday, unless there is another day missed... like Labor Day. That causes one four day week, and requires classes to end on Monday instead of Friday. This term, the calendar did not include an accommodation for Labor Day.

The fall semester start date will always be no less than 2 weeks after the end of summer. This allows for turnover for campus housing. Additionally, the start date also depends on commencement. We try to keep the Thursday finals’ end date and one reading day to allow students plenty of study time. Start and end dates within other system schools vary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAMU-C</td>
<td>AUG 30-DEC 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMU</td>
<td>AUG 30-DEC 08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMU</td>
<td>AUG 23-NOV 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMUK</td>
<td>AUG 17-DEC 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fall we have Labor Day, an extra reading day, and Thanksgiving holidays. The “no class meeting days” is very different from spring, so we shouldn’t expect that fall would look anything like spring. Texas Administrative Code states each college and university shall establish its own dates for orientation, registration, holidays, final examinations, and the end of each semester. This fall was setup to the best of our ability with a much earlier commencement date than in the past. We do count class days for the entire term and also for the 7-week mini-terms and try my best to even out the meeting days. Fall 1st week session had 34 meeting days, 2nd week session has 35 meeting days. So we are at 69 class meeting days this Fall. If we ended on a Friday we would not have enough days for all finals unless we look at restructuring finals from 6 days to 5 days.

- In the case of Spring, it is not yet too late, and there are no intervening days, unless we create one. As we start on Tuesday, classes should end on a Monday. In 2022, 2023 and 2024 we currently end on a Wednesday, and that is the source of the additional days (72 instead of 70).

When creating the Spring term, we do look at other universities, as well as counting backwards from our commencement date. This is the table used. Please note that universities may choose their end and start days as they see fit. [https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/public-universities-health-related-institutions/other-institutional-resources/common-calendar/](https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/public-universities-health-related-institutions/other-institutional-resources/common-calendar/) We must just stay within +/- 7 days of the prescribe start date. Here are how the start and end dates vary between other institutions and their count of class days in the spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Reading Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAMU-C</td>
<td>JAN 12-MAY 3</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>NO EXTRA READING DAYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMU</td>
<td>JAN 18-MAY 3</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>APRIL 15TH READING DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMU</td>
<td>JAN 18-MAY 3</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>APRIL 15TH READING DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMUK</td>
<td>JAN 19-MAY 4</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>NO EXTRA READING DAYS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In additions, by choosing 72 days, we are able to keep both 7-weeks sessions at 36 days each and mirror these 7-week sessions to the online mini-terms as COB has requested. By ending on a
Wednesday, that gives us our usual Thursday reading day and finals starting on Friday. We end finals the following Thursday, which allows for the college hooding ceremonies on Friday and commencement on Saturday. This has been our consistent way of structuring spring. Recently we had the change in spring to accommodate American Bank Center, but we still stick to these guidelines.

Course sections are built for traditional spring, 7-week sessions, and online mini-terms with start and end dates. As of today there is student registration as well. It would take IT intervention at a high level to change any start or end dates of courses and student registration.

- I do appreciate that there has been significant progress in the Calendar Committee issues. We did get the calendar in time to find errors. I would be glad to meet with the Registrar and the other Faculty Representatives, as well as the Student Government Representatives prior to the full calendar committee meeting to make sure that the specific issues are resolved in the Academic Calendar before the calendar is sent to the staff functional areas.

The academic calendar is set based on a variety of factors and with input from multiple internal and external stakeholders, which requires art and math. We do our very best to include everyone’s feedback.

I ask that Speaker Pletcher address the added days with the Provost at her next meeting to discuss the issue and confirm, once and for all, if the 2022 Calendar is indeed set, or if there is still time to fix this problem.

Prior to the President’s Cabinet approving the academic calendar, it was reviewed numerous times.