

Faculty Senate Meeting Notes from November 3, 2017
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Room: Madla 134

In attendance:

Call to Order is made by Carter.

Approval of Minutes- Carter moves that we accept the minutes. It is approved.

Administrative Updates- See addendum with Dr. Matson's report

Executive Committee Updates- (Amy Porter) · Report on Texas Council of Faculty Senates- Claire Nolasco and I attended this conference last weekend. I met with Dr. Hallmark, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the A&M System and other Faculty Senate Presidents in the system. The major issues at other A&M campuses seem to be salary compression, summer pay, and workload issues. The conference had a special session on shared governance that will help us in our discussion session. There was also a review of the past legislative session. The major issues in the past legislative session that impacted higher education were: funding, Hazlewood, and campus sexual assault issues. In the campus roundup reports, it was clear that the major issues concerned Hurricane Harvey, salary compression, lack of raises, creating ladders or clear plans for career advancement for non-tenure track faculty. One major issue that many people noted was a feeling or perception that legislators think that faculty don't work hard or work very much. This seems to have a direct impact on future funding for higher education.

There will be a Faculty Discussion of Shared Governance Meeting on November 17 in Madla 238 at 11. There is a survey handed out that we might want to consider giving out. ·

Peters questions: What are some of the things that we can do help with the issue of anti-intellectualism? Porter: Work in our communities, work with different groups. Sanders: Do we have any connections in a district to help this? Grant to promote courses that strategically place you in other schools. Matson: We are looking for more meaningful experiences in the schools. There is much happening about the value of school and the roles of faculty in Higher Education. There are lots of exemplars, and Matson will bring examples for the next Senate.

Porter makes a request that committees begin regular reporting to Faculty Senate starting next month. A regular report should also involve a written report, which can be very brief, to provide to the Secretary for the minutes.

Old Business-

Timely distribution of contracts and Faculty continuation letters (Bob Shelton) – He has met with the Provost but will be letting us know about how that is going next time.

Faculty Parking (Barrera) – The last meeting was October 10th. They meet November 6. Proposal will be made that Staff and Faculty be allocated 605 spaces. This # was indicative of the 721 faculty and staff on the payroll. For every 100 staff and faculty, we should have 78 spaces as per the master plan. There are enough spaces currently as stated on the 2017 parking update. It will be requested that 605 are dedicated to faculty. Nolasco: Have you decided which parking lot spaces will be allocated? Gaffrey says that it is Lot 1 that will be for faculty and staff. There will be additional spots in lot 2. Valdez says that there are issues with the fees charged. Matson: Our system doesn't allow them to pay by semester. There are some internal issues with that, and Matson will be working to remedy those. A Mr. Rendon has proposed a plan for supplying 4-5 golf carts as shuttles working on the campus. Gaffrey says a shuttle service is not justified, and it is not safe. Sanders comments that there is a safety issue for students walking on the sides of cars as well, especially because of the speed of the cars. Barrera adds to that that there are rattlesnakes as well. Barrera says that his area of interest is long term parking issues. One idea is that we extend a lease to the parking lots and then the lots are released to the university once they have made the monies promised. Barrera says energy efficiency incentives would allow us to take advantage of the construction of parking under classrooms. This would decrease the cost of those classrooms' construction cost. O'Quinn: Do other campuses incentivize using city buses? Barrera says that it isn't happening, but that there is another committee working to make the route better. Parking requirements are coming. Valdez: we need to make a system that uses each other (faculty and staff) to get us from place to place.

Grade appeals (Amy Porter) – Amy met with Provost, and the process will become electronic at some point in the near future (not immediately)

Extra credit policy (Jenny Wilson and Claire Nolasco)– Only one faculty has responded on BB. Nolasco took it to her program, and the idea of a policy for extra credit was not received well. Comments included: a. The faculty senate should not focus on implementing a policy or recommendations on extra credit because it impinges on academic freedom of a faculty member. Each program should focus on faculty grade distributions as a more accurate indicator of course rigor. If some programs have a problem with faculty giving high extra credit, then those programs should internally fix the problem instead of the faculty senate discussing this at the university level. One faculty also expressed disagreement with the extra credit policy because some faculty may construe this as mandating that faculty members are required to give extra credit in their classes.

In the event of you using extra credit, then it must be made specific and include parameters. Could there be a survey given with specific questions that get to the heart of what faculty senate is asking?

Food Waste (Amy Porter) – Porter emailed Rita Arredondo in Risk Management for specific guidelines, and Rita responded that she needed to do some research and would get back to Porter with more information. Dr. Matson says that in California there was a mobile app creating an informal network to let students know that there is food available. Valdez: Could it be addressed on the front end and make sure that RSVPs are used? We should work through the Provost's

office so that on the front end there would be less food ordered. Porter will work on talking to the Provost. Dr. Matson suggests that Porter reach out to Edwin Blanton.

Custodial and Maintenance Day (Amy Porter) – There is apparently a Custodial Recognition Day that is in October. Do we bring something else for the spring, or wait to prepare for the next October? Discussion occurs that highlighting a staff member in this area such that everyone gets to know those that help within the walls of the university is a good idea. This can be done on monitors.

Summer Teaching Pay (Jenny Wilson)- Porter asked the Provost who said there is not a current expectation for the changing of summer pay. The Provost will make a statement at next month's meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Vote for the new senate committee assignments – Nolasco will move to the Curriculum Committee, and Wanyu will move to the Research and Faculty Development Committee. It is accepted.

New Business

Travel Accounts/monies for travel (Dan Glaser/Jenny Wilson)-Valdez: The travel/development funds can be used for travel and personal faculty development. It might be that faculty do not realize that it can be used for development. Sanders agrees. Nolasco mentions that she can view one monetary account as a Program Coordinator (PC). She can see how much is allocated in miscellaneous, but maybe the other PCs can be given access? The Research and Faculty Development committee is going to take this on as a topic.

Decision on Summer Teaching Pay (Jenny Wilson)- We would like to present a resolution a later date that pay for summer cannot be changed without one year's notice. Valdez says that there are some initiatives that are being used to encourage summer research over teaching, but it is impossible to get things implemented. Even if we had the grants etc. we do not have the ways to implement them. If there is a push for research, do we have the funding, the resources, etc. to do those? Push for summer teaching pay not to be changed: Nolasco.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment 12:52