

Texas A&M University – San Antonio  
Faculty Senate Minutes  
Meeting of Friday, March 3, 2017  
CEAC - Room 402.1  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Senate President Corinna Ross – 11:36am

Recognition of Guests: Ursula Vaughan, Brenda Rushing, Megan Wise, Provost O'Brien,  
Lorrie Webb, Edward Westermann

Roll call of Senators – Senate Secretary Bob Shelton

Cory Ross	KC Kalmbach	Kathleen Voges
Robin Kapavik	Jack Ayers	Dan Glaser
Deirdre McDonald	Jennifer Wilson	
Amy Porter	Kevin Barton	

Approval of minutes for meeting February 3, 2017

eBook Program Specialist – Ursula Vaughan

eBook adoption fair on April 11 and presented an overview of potential savings by our students with eBook.

University Provost – Dr. Michael J. O'Brien

The Academic Plan has undergone some slight changes and edits will be sent back to Robin Kapavik soon for Senate approval.

Interim Director of the Library will be internal while a national search is done.

Library will undergo reorganization.

Huge space crunch is coming there is a possibility of 4 more buildings which would be 8 classrooms.

The Alamo University Center is closing September 1.

The President would like to have a discussion about Polytechnic with the Senate.

Discussion regarding how to best discuss Polytechnic with the most faculty and senate involvement resulted in asking the President to have a special session AFTER the April Senate meeting.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) update by Drs. Ross and Kapavik

Other Senates are facing same issues as we are, Provost searches, Tenure and Promotion issues, Shared Governance needed to be defined at Universities with help of AAUP. Interim President of Houston Downtown talked about risks of Sanctuary Campuses to Dreamers.

Dr. Ross also announced that the policy about 8hrs of "Office Hours" no longer exists. Departments (Chairs & Faculty) will decide the policies they would like to implement.

### **Old Business**

Faculty Merit and Evaluations – Dr. Ross updated Senate on the status of the draft policy for Faculty Merit is with the Chairs & College Guidelines for Evaluation are now implemented. Dr. Webb voiced her concern that this draft was implemented without Senate input and not through the proper channels

and behind closed doors. Dr. Westermann: voice concerned about using ordering/ranking and should be with Chairs would do this based on Faculty ratings of does not meet, meets, or exceeds expectations. Dr. O'Brien responded that not meet, meets, or exceeds expectations is enough to satisfy the ranking needs. The Senate still controls this and can change it. Dr. O'Brien still has promises to fulfill with Business to fulfill with respect to CUPA data. Dr. Kalmbach commented about how different people play different rolls in building department and how these different rolls need to be considered. Dr. O'Brien reiterated process. Chairs will not be evaluated by the Faculty. They will be evaluated by Deans with input from the Departments. Deans will most likely be given a pot of money based on head count. It'll be up to the Chairs to give out the merit based on evaluations.

Calendar committee – Dr. Kalmbach updated on progress of Calendar in general terms. Based on Faculty poll and Administrators input we are looking to implement Fall 2018 Reading Days probably two-days, that Fall semester will start 2-days earlier, transition to a more traditional 2-hr exam block, Veteran's Day Progaming instead of day off, and finally Graduation might move to a Saturday (late morning) or possibly Friday.

JagTracks curriculum review – Dr. Webb – The first informational meeting was held the past Wednesday. Major issues facing JagTracks are the syllabi, pass/no pass vs credit /no credit, staffing of JagTracks, Faculty will have to apply to teach tracks 1-4, 3 & 4 will no longer be housed in individual Colleges.

Senate Resolutions – Dr. Ross.

- #02-03-2017-000002B – Electoral Units. Discussion: None. Vote: 9 Yes 0 (Unanimous).
- #02-03-2017-000003 – Senate Membership. Discussion: Dr. Westermann asked about Supervisors, but this isn't effected. Vote: Unanimous.

New Business

Resolution #03-03-2017-000001 – Library Committee – Provost will change the University Library Committee to a Standing Committee that the Provost oversees. And one Senator will serve on this new standing committee. Deidre McDonald commented that this would be a favorable change. Motion to approve by Deidre. Dr. Kapavik seconds. Vote: Unanimous

Dr. Ross received noticed that the System needs us to form an ad hoc committee to draft policy on Emeritus faculty (3 volunteers). Draft policy is needed by end of summer – Drs. Kapavik, Voges, and Wilson volunteers.

A couple of years ago Senate took up the +/- grade system. It has been asked to revisit this issue. Dr. Westermann commented that this could help influence grade inflation. Dr. Ross will poll faculty with respect to previous language used.

Adjourn at 1:01