

# Faculty Senate Meeting—February 2, 2016

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Senators Present :

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- f* This taskforce will need faculty input and recommendations. Dr. Anderson asked senators to ask faculty in their departments to assist in giving information should the taskforce contact them.
- f* Dr. Anderson said she has been through her first round of the tenure/promotion process, reviewing 19 dossiers.
  - f* She stated that there were few appeals which are currently being heard.
  - f* Dr. Anderson stated she learned a lot through the process about our faculty and the breadth of their teaching, scholarship, and scholarship of engagement.
  - f* She was impressed with the work submitted by the faculty.
- f* Dr. Anderson stated that in the past two Faculty Senate meetings she has attended, the Senators requested information on the budget.
  - f* Therefore, Dr. Anderson will relinquish time to President Steven H. Tallant to join the meeting and present this information to the Senate.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  Dr. Anderson opened the floor for questions: **or**

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- f* **Projected Revenue Increase:** A&M-Kingsville had a spectacular year and was named one of the fastest growing universities in the United States.
  - f* Last fiscal year (2015), the budget was \$145 million.
  - f* For fiscal year 2016, the projected budget is \$160 million which is a \$14.4 million increase from last year.
- f* **Salaries:**
  - f* President Tallant discussed the difference between one-time monies and forever monies. Salary increases are considered forever monies as the university will need to ensure the amount is available for years to come.
  - f* President Tallant stated that \$3.5 million was given to merit increases in September 2015 and January 2016.
  - f* Built into the growth plan is a formula to increase funding per SCH.
    - f* Unallocated Faculty Salary Pool is money used to hire adjunct faculty. The University earns \$60 per semester credit hour (SCH) additional funding to cover adjuncts and classrooms.
    - f* President Tallant stated that this is the only university in America that does it this way. He stated that the university is putting these funds back into the classroom.
  - f* Added 40 new tenure track positions this year (mostly engineering), and 100 positions over the last two years.
  - f* \$376,000 is budgeted for summer faculty salaries.
- f* **Academic Support:**
  - f* The Weslaco Engineering program received additional support as well as the Engineering Teaching Lab which needed the upgrade.
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- f* There have been 400 cameras installed and more added by May all over campus including the parking lots.
- f* The university has created a position to help with the disconnection there has been with UPD and iTech. This person will be monitoring the cameras that are being installed.
- f* President Tallant stated that he believes in privacy but when a student gets assaulted on campus, we want data.
- f* Money is also allocated to upgrades to the Engineering Teaching Lab (done prior to ABET accreditation, but billed in 2016).
- f* Monies have been allocated for searches. President Tallant said it was not fair to have colleges pay for searches or the hiring of consultants for these searches.
- f* **Ongoing Money:** total of \$10.124 million.
  - f* \$3 million of the money is not being touched or spent but rather held in reserves to earn interest. Oil prices have been a concern and the reserve money is being saved in case of another budget cut by the state. This money will ensure the university will survive if that occurs.
  - f* President Tallant stated that his priorities are to first take care of our people first, then our students, then our equipment and maintain what we have built and done.
  - f* Dr. Teresa Riley inserted an explanation of the impact of the loss of TAMSA.
    - f* In one month TAMUK lost \$10 million.
    - f* Dr. Tallant made sure we were planning and budgeting for the loss of TAMSA.
- f* **Salary Savings:** President Tallant explained the crazy way the budget here has been built on projected salary savings. It has taken the university several years to gradually redistribute that money back to the colleges. Every year for the last four years he takes part of the budget to get us out of that. In several years, we will have gradually got it to where if there are salary savings in a college, it will actually be a bonus for the college.
- f* **Promises:**
  - f* We will bank money this year.
  - f* If we don't have to give money back to the legislature, we will have another merit raise.
  - f* The money we have in the bank right now is for what the legislature might do to us...or we will have it for merit increases. e            2            (            h            f

