

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes —October 6, 2015

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Senators Present : Bart Ballard, April Conkey, Kathleen Rees, Xiaoliu Chi, Christine Fiestas, Barbara Cooke, Pamela Wright, Ryan Paul, Elizabeth Janzen, Richard Miller, Kendra Huff, Ruth Chatelain-Jardon, Don Jones, Daniel Burt, Melody Knight, Monica Wong-Ratcliff, Chonwei Xiao, Joseph Sai, Rajab Chaloo, David Ramirez, Amit Verma, Ryan Rhoades, Polly Allred, Valerie Bartelt, Patricia Huskin, Nestor Sherman, Lifford McLauchlan, Hong Zhou, Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman

Senators Absent: Eliezer Louzada (2), Armando Ibanez (1), Jon Baskin (3) , Joachim Reinhuber (2), Ed Butterworth (3), Stan Hodges (3), Nuri Yilmazer (1), Bruce Marsh (2), Yahia Al-Smadi (3) , Jody Briones (3)

Attending: Dr. Heidi Anderson, Mr. Martin Brittain, Ruben Cantu, Abigail De La Mora, Dr. Natalya Delcoure, Dr. Alberto Ruiz

™ Quorum Call 3:30:

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Dr. Verma asked parliamentarian, Dr. Sherman, if there were enough members for a quorum. Dr. Sherman TJ 0 Tc -0.008 Tw ( )Tj 0.004 Tc -0.012 Tw 28.58 0 Td [(A)1( m)-3(ot)2(i)6



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she isn't sure what the priorities are regarding this issue. It was also mentioned to reduce the load of lecturers from 5 courses to 4

- f* Dr. Verma stated that the Executive Committee met with the President and Dr. Gardiner during the summer. He stated that the President is not against this but the suggestion was made that faculty would need to be more productive in research. Dr. Verma stated that the load of lecturers has been discussed and is an active discussion.
- f* Dr. Anderson stated that the President has not gotten this on a list and asked Abigail De La Mora to make a note of it.
- f* With no more questions, Dr. Verma thanked Dr. Anderson for her presentation.

<sup>TM</sup> Report from Dr. Alberto Ruiz :

¾ Dr. Alberto Ruiz gave Faculty Senate an update on the College of Education and Human Performance.

- o Dr. Ruiz thanked Dr. Verma for the formal invitation to speak to the Faculty Senate.
- o The College of Education and Human Performance has seen a 4% increase in enrolment during a time when no one wanted to be a teacher due to budget cut backs in education.
- o Research in the college has improved as well as retention rates. Retention rates were at their worst levels at 44% but are now at 65%.
- o Publications in the college have tripled.
- o The proudest accomplishment is the Premont ISD Alliance. As some may know, Premont was on the verge of losing its school district and no other district wanted to take them. Premont received a 3-year reprieve and the university started the first partnership of this type in the nation. Dr. Ruiz acknowledged that his faculty was ready to help and none asked for release. He also stated that the college has received a grant for this and is working on a partnership with Brooks County.
- o The College of Education and Human Performance and the College of Arts and Sciences have partnered and currently offer a master's online program and are coordinating a doctorate in STEM Education for fall or spring.
- o The College of Education and Human Performance is the highest producing of online courses and faculty has grown because of this.
- o The Exercise Pre-PT program has grown which 10-15 students in physical therapy school. Any student that goes through our program here does not "flunk out" of physical therapy school. In the past five to six years, three students have been awarded major of the year. We are the only regional school to have this. Last year IEP certification was at 57% and as of yesterday that rate was 76.5%.
- o EC-6 Bilingual partnership with TSTC/STC in the valley has grown. It started with 35 students in Harlingen and has grown to 260 in the Valley. Two faculty

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College has partnerships with other colleges and does have the 1<sup>st</sup> doctoral program in Bilingual Education in the nation.

- o One of his biggest accomplishments as dean has been the improvement of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership with 90% of the dissertations being published.
  - f* With no questions asked, Dr. Verma thanked Dr. Ruiz for his presentation.

<sup>TM</sup> Report on Ad Astra – Ms. Melissa Guajardo :

<sup>¾</sup> As stated in Dr. Anderson's presentation, Ms. Guajardo will not be presenting on Ad Astra at the request of the Provost.

<sup>TM</sup> Report by Dr. Natalya Delcours :

<sup>¾</sup> Dr. Natalya Delcours gave Faculty Senate an update on the College of Business Administration.



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nervous for their big classes. A number of faculty voiced concern of term “personal” in Question #1.

¾ Dr. Janzen stated that the committee was unable to have a student on the committee by she did show student in her class and they did comment that it was much easier to understand. They did however miss the faculty accessibility question.

f Dr. Verma asked for a timeline on this.

x Dr. Janzen stated she is thinking the committee will reconvene to discuss remaining concerns and opened the floor for any remaining questions to have them now addressed.

x Dr. Verma asked that the committee keeps things simple and remember that the Faculty Senate has taken this task upon ourselves to produce one that we like to replace from the old version. The process must be completed or we are sending the wrong idea that the Senate is complaining without warrant. It was recommended that the current version be shared with faculty and be “blessed” by Student Government Association which would give it more weight. Dr. Verma stated that it is not going to be perfect but will be able to produce one that is good enough for everyone.

x It was asked if section 4 was approved in previous meeting in May or was it tabled.

i Dr. Verma stated that there was some neglect of parliamentary procedure, which he stated was his fault. He stated that the committee was reporting on activity, but any previous motion/action was dead.

x Dr. Janzen asked if senators wanted to take to constituents and get this off the table by next meeting.

x Dr. Polly Allred asked if we should do another round of suggestions  
i Dr. Janzen stated that she felt it was not necessary as the senators had already done that and have already spent a lot of time on making revisions.

x Dr. Richard Miller suggested senators as representative of their faculty make input on changes and have them addressed now.

x It was stated that there was an issue with the “and/or” questions. There is confusion as a faculty can get good response on one and not the other. Also there was an issue with the number of questions as most institutions have 11 and we currently have 6.

i Dr. Allred referred to Question 1 and stated rewording the section “instructor displayed interest in learning of student” and change professional instead of personal.

i It was stated that the last two questions were problematic (Number 5 & 6) because of the “and/or “

i It was suggested to remove the and/or but it was decided that it was a compromise but doesn't solve the issue. It was requested that someone with significant survey background write the questions to ensure they are statistically viable. Dr. Richard Miller agreed to find someone.

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- i There was question on the accessibility question and it was agreed that this question was skewed in the same direction
- ¾ Dr. Verma asked if there were any more comments and said he would look to see what the right procedure is to put this item on the floor.
- f Committee on Committees —Dr. Chatelain-Jardon (Chair) reporting:
  - ¾ The committee has filled in vacant spaces in Promotion/Tenure Appeals Committee. Dr. Chatelain-Jardon asked that all senators take a look at the website to ensure they are correct.
- f Resolution and By-laws Committee —Dr. Huff (interim chair) reporting:
  - ¾ Dr. Huff stated that the committee had nothing to report.
- f Piper Award Committee —Dr. Hong Zhou (Chair) reporting:
  - ¾ Dr. Zhou stated that the selection committee would send college representative information out by October 23<sup>rd</sup>. In early November the committee will meet to rank nominees. All nominees could be ranked by committee (smallest total wins). Dr. Zhou opened the floor for suggestions.
    - f Dr. Zhou suggested a possible conflict of interest might be a committee member ranking a nominee from the same college. It was suggested by other senators that all members of the committee, according to established guidelines, should rank all nominees, and there would be no conflict of interest in ranking a nominee from the same college as the committee member. The sentiment of 10(er)7( 1d ( )T)-3(o)-7(mm)-10(i)]TJ 0 the it 0 Td am0037( 1d 7u-3(o)ee)2( o)10(fCTd)112 -4(e)





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- ¾ The committee just met last Wednesday. There is a template currently from system lawyers and the committee sent out feelers on where not to allow handguns.
- ¾ The committee will meet tomorrow.
- ¾ Dr. Tallant will be holding an open forum.
- ¾ Dr. Verma was asked to discuss this issue with other Faculty Senate Presidents at his upcoming conference.
- ¾ It was stated that the place needs to have a good justification, as the law is already set. Sporting events and labs that contain ether (due to the risk of combustion) have been listed.
- ¾ The next Senate meeting will have a formal presentation from the committee. Mr. Randy Hughes will bring a draft of the policy to the floor.

## ™ Old Business :

- ¾ Dr. Verma opened the floor for old business. Since committees had already given their updates, Dr. Verma moved forward to new business.

## ™ New Business:

- ¾ Dr. Verma opened discussion on new business.

- f* Dr. Janzen brought up the issue of required office hours. It has been discussed briefly in Senate and is listed in the Handbook and Dr. Janzen wanted to know if there would be a change to reduce the required 10 hours. TAMUK is currently well above most in the A&M system. A&M Corpus is currently at 5.
  - x It was stated by Dr. Verma that Dr. McLaughlin had discussed this with him a few years ago, and the Executive Committee did not consider this issue for further discussions.
  - x It was asked what the motivation for the change is.
    - o Dr. Janzen replied that the music department faculty spends much time on one-on-one private lessons in addition to course work. The faculty can't actually honor those 10 hours. Faculty members feel more responsible for 5 plus appointments per week.
    - o It was suggested to use those one-on-one meetings as office hours but it was stated that those private lessons are teaching and they do receive credit for that--several lessons add to the equivalent of a class.
    - o It was suggested the department chair and faculty need to discuss.
    - o Dr. Verma stated he would meet with the chair to discuss the issue as the department has a different issue that not all departments have.
  - x Dr. Verma brought up the new email signature block policy. An email policy has been circulating, as some are not sending professional-looking emails. The senate needs to have input on this policy.

™ Adjournment : With no further items, Dr. Verma adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.