**Faculty Senate meeting 5/14/2012 Minutes.**

**Faculty Senate awards**:

Student award for Outstanding Aggie Spirit – 4 winners:

Jennifer Mueller

Lorisa (sorry, didn’t catch the last name)

Laura Knox

Michelle Hatfield

For Faculty Senate Service – the R. Statleton Award went to:

Dr. Dale Rice

Dr. Janice Epsteen

The minutes from the previous meeting was approved.

**Approval of 2012 elected members**.

**For** **College of Vet Medicine**

Place 02------------------------------------------Karen Russell

Place 03------------------------------------------Joe Arosh

Place 04------------------------------------------Karen Snowden

*Honor Council*-----------------------------------Elizabeth Martinez

*Subcommittee on Non-Tenure*

*Track Faculty*----------------------------------Pending

*University Grievance Committee*-----------George Stoica

*University Tenure Mediation Comm.*------Elizabeth Martinez

**Core curriculum committee**-

Under mandate – there will be a 42 credit hour core curriculum beginning 2014.

A core course is defined as “any lower or upper division course that does not have an academic prerequisite but may have a minimum class standing requirement that has been approved by the core course authorization and review committee”

From the senate webpage: Karan Watson added that the state is now requiring core courses to list and assess learning outcomes.

New core courses/sections are in the process of being added to accommodate the number of students (for example, political science).

There was much discussion about including upper division classes in the core. The amendment failed.

There was a discussion about including more math and science in the core curriculum, which did not pass.

Removed from the core was a kinesiology course. Students are required to take one kinesiology rather than two.

**Report by Dr. Walter Daugherity on the SEBAC meeting (health insurance):**

As you know, TAMU employees no longer have a choice in our health care provider. First, Dr. Daugherity gave an overview on how the decision was made – for the most part, it was based on 4 points: **1**. Employees will be self-insured, i.e., TAMU is the insurer, and requires a maximum number of total participants. There was concern the pool would be too small without eliminating the other choices. **2**. The program will work only if there is a sufficient number of younger (presumable healthier) individuals. There was a fear that many of the younger staff and faculty would remain with Scott and White due to the reduced costs. **3**. Scott and White, and the TAMU insurances are both PPOs. There is no reason to have two PPO plans. Some think Scott and White are a HMO but that was not the consensus of SEBAC. And **4**. There is a reduction in the premiums albeit other things will cost more. Dr. Daugherity noted he was the messenger only – he did not have a vote but allowed to sit in on the meeting.

**Key concerns voiced at the meeting about the insurance issue:**

1. The comparison of charges is based on last year’s Scott and White projections, not what Scott and White actually submitted for the new fiscal year (lower than the TAMU PPO). “Scott and White presented an attractive program with savings to faculty and staff” to be competitive. For example, Scott and White will maintain a maximum out of pocket expense at $3000 (not $5000); $350 deductible (not $700), $5 copay for generic drugs (not $10).
2. There was no input from the faculty.
3. There is a loss of choice with no discussion.
4. Although employees may retain their Scott and White physicians, it will be at a higher cost.
5. Overall, health care will cost employees 3.63% more (as stated in the TAMU insurance booklet).
6. Presentation given was misleading.

**State of Senate Address (by outgoing Speaker Michael Benedict).**

Despite this being the 30th year of the faculty senate, the concerns and problems remain the same. Dr. Benedict quoted past addresses and indeed the problems then are still the problems now.

**Turning over of the gavel to the new Speaker – Dr. John Stallone, CVM, VTPP!!!**

A gift of appreciation was presented to Dr. Benedict.

**Election of the Executive Committee members at large, Secretary/Treasurer, and Speaker Elect.**

New speaker elect: Dr. Walter Daugherity

New Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Clint McGill

**Caucases:**

We then divided into individual caucuses to select key committee members and the caucus leader. For CVM:

ByLaws Committee – Dr. Karen Snowden

Committee on Committees – Dr. Louise Abbott

Election Committee – Dr. Michelle Pine

CVM Caucus Leader – Dr. Judith Ball

**Presentation by President Loftin on tuition increases and 1.5% merit raises.**

The Deans and VPs would like to provide one-time dollars for a merit increase of 1.5%. The sustained 1.5% increase must come from “internal funds” (the departments). This will be a merit increase of 1.5% of the base salary. Someone asked if dollars would be taken from one faculty member (decreased pay/time) to give to another as a merit increase. President Loftin replied that it is up to the department how funds are spent, but he doubted that this would take place.

Concerning tuition increase, a brief history was presented of the various bills and the interactions with the Regents. The last time the president met with 9 of the 10 regents, he knew the potential of a tuition hike was low. Therefore, he asked for fee increases. Ultimately, there are 4 mandated fee increases and a new fee entitled ‘student success fee’. The dollars from the student success fee are flexible. Dr. Loftin plans a “shared governance process” to determine how these fees will be dispersed.

Meeting was adjourned.

**Note:** I will provide minutes following each of the Faculty Senate meetings. These minutes are notes taken during the meeting and do not necessarily reflect my or the other CVM senators opinion. Thanks. JBall