Faculty Senate Meeting

October 8, 2012

Chancellor John Sharp was the guest speaker. He summarized many of the past years happenings (successes and failures) such as:

1. Decreasing perceived differences felt between the System and the University

2. Establishing one-time funds to use for faculty retention; 19.7 million was allocated to TAMU and 5.7 million was allocated to Prairie View.

3. Making sure that the system was operating within a regular budget and not using extensive reserve funds.

4. Having representation in Washington, D.C. to assist with grants, etc.

5. Re-negotiated health benefits.

6. Investigated feasibility of purchasing a law school to be associated with TAMU.

7. Outsourcing dining, building maintenance, and landscaping.

8. Establishing a research initiative to attract new faculty to TAMU.

9. Moving athletics to the SEC.

10. Re-branding of all the agencies to show the flagship’s name and association.

11. Moving forward to bring the Health Science Center back to the university.

12. Modifying the way construction projects are handled through a bidding process.

13. Attempted to extend benefits to domestic partners. Due to the way a Texas law is structured, this was unsuccessful.

Chancellor Sharp also mentioned:

1. The possibility of outsourcing Parking is being looked in to.

2. He and his office continue to look for ways to save money.

3. He felt that TAMU is in better shape, fiscally, compared to other Texas universities.

4. Briefly informed the Faculty Senate about individual in the legislatures who may be able to give support to TAMU .

5. He feels that the number one priority of his is to restore TAMU’s budget.

John Stallone addressed and updated the Faculty Senate on a variety of topics, such as:

1. The merger of the Health Science Center to the university has been delayed about 6 months as details are being resolved. Anticipates merger to be finalized in June 2013.

2. The law school merger is slowly moving forward.

3. The Vice President for Research, Dr. J. Seemann has stepped down from that position and Dr. Theresa Fossum has been named interim VPR. A Search Committee is being assembled and will have Faculty Senate representation.

4. The minutes for the September 2012 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

SEBAC

1. While the number of tobacco users initially dropped, it increased again due to spouses and children of TAMU employees.

2. In addition to the physician’s co-pay, there may be a second co-pay from the hospital that has that physician on staff.

3. The second phase of the dependent audit is completed. There were 694 ineligible dependents who were subsequently removed from the health care benefits, resulting in a substantial savings.

4. The next audit will look into auxiliary medical coverage, such as dental, eye, etc.

5. As a result of Obama-care, health care benefits will covering certain items/procedures such as contraception, sterilization, breast pumps.

6. The Flex care spending will decrease from $4,800 to $2,500.

7. As a reminder to all TAMU employees, need to have a health risk assessment done at the time of the annual physical examination and remind your physician to code for it appropriately. This will result in a decreased co-pay.

New Business:

The Student Code Revisions document was discussed.