

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014
601 Rudder Tower

The meeting commenced at 3:15 p.m. with the swearing in of a new senator from the College of Engineering. College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences senators in attendance were Louise Abbott, Joe Arosh, Judith Ball, Christine Budke, Karen Russell, and Karen Snowden.

Dr. Woosley (Speaker) indicated that the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee (EC) recently met with members of the Board of Regents (BoR) in the hope of establishing stronger ties between the two entities.

The minutes of the October 13, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting were approved after the addition of statements made by Dr. Watson during the October meeting regarding the need for senators to elicit feedback from faculty in their respective colleges and that consolidation does not necessarily mean centralization when it comes to student advising.

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Unfinished Business:

BIOL 611 (tabled last meeting due to potential overlap with another course) was taken off the table and approved after an agreement was reached between the involved parties.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Affairs Committee- A questionnaire was sent to the caucus leaders concerning priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Results of the questionnaire are being compiled.

Workplace Climate and Diversity Committee- A letter was sent to the EC asking for establishment of stronger ties between the EC and the BoR. A second document is in preparation regarding the need for shared governance.

Research Committee- Faculty surveys on research climate are in preparation. The surveys will focus on proposal preparation, grant administration, research recognition, and research support and infrastructure. During the committee's presentation, Dr. Watson made the point that Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has their own survey that very few investigators complete. Faculty members were encouraged to complete the SRS's survey.

Old Business:

Proposed revisions to Student Rule IX (smoke-free campus) are still being discussed. Dr. Watson indicated that the revisions are needed for Texas A&M to be eligible for Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) funding.

New Business:

A resolution was read on behalf of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) that encourages the President to ensure that all proposals involving transfer of space among colleges and/or agencies on the Texas A&M campus that may disrupt faculty teaching and research activities are reviewed by the CBE before a final decision is reached.

Committee of the Whole:

Dr. Clint Magill (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) indicated the need for the Honor Council to be informed when students suspended for an Honor Council violation are re-admitted. He also stated that he was continuing to have difficulty with Google mail (Gmail) in terms of deleted items as well as sending email to students via Howdy.

Dr. Beth McNeill (College of Education) raised concerns regarding confirmation of attendance for online students who do not have an assignment due prior to the confirmation of attendance deadline. A student whose enrollment status is not verified by the instructor of record is not eligible for federal financial aid. Verification is also needed for foreign student visas. If a student is inadvertently left off of the list of attending students, the instructor must contact the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid.

A faculty member from the Baylor College of Dentistry stated her concerns regarding the seemingly overlapping roles of the Faculty Senate, Council of Principal Investigators (CPI), and the Executive Committee of Distinguished Professors (DPs). She encouraged the EC to meet with the CPI and DPs to better establish the roles of the various entities. Dr. Woosley indicated that this was, in fact, already happening.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.