Interim President Mark Hussey was the guest speaker. Here is a summary of his comments:

1) He has focused on getting out the message – what does it mean to be a land-sea-space grant university and an AAU university. He uses the language of “excellence plus affordability”.

2) Has emphasized unification of the component parts of TAMU so that we focus on being one university rather than a federation of autonomous units (e.g., Galveston, HSC, Law school, Dental school, Qatar).

3) In Fall 2015 freshman will NOT be required to live on campus but they will be given first priority to choose to live on campus. This may be re-visited in the future.

4) Starting in May, 2015 TAMU will go to one convocation per year (in May) but ONLY if a commencement speaker of national/international repute can be secured.

5) Based on recommendations from a Graduation Task force, spring graduation will go to three days in College Station.

6) Due to widespread student dissatisfaction with the previous dining plan, a compromise has been reached. A modified dining plan is now in place.

7) The 84th legislative session will start soon and President Hussey anticipates that a significant amount of his time will be spent helping to maintain / increase state funding. He also will work towards increasing federal funding where possible.

8) The interviews for the new VP for Student Affairs are anticipated to occur in February or March 2015.

9) Future enrollment goals are being discussed to balance all aspects, including retention and 4 year graduation expectations.

10) A number of compliance issues have been examined – significant efforts are being directed towards developing better communication of compliance needs within the university.

11) How discretionary funds are distributed to different units is being studied and President Hussey is looking at ways to increase funding to different units.

12) Provost Watson is developing strategic plans to complete the Vision 2020 goals.

13) The TAMU Campus master plan is being updated with lots of growth anticipated.

14) President Hussey continues to monitor efficiency and affordability issues across the board, stating, “Affordability is key, but not at the expense of excellence.”

15) Deferred maintenance is still an issue that needs to be addressed

16) Development (fundraising) is a priority with the official Capital Campaign to start in fall 2015.

17) Athletics occupies more of President Hussey’s time than he originally anticipated.

18) TAMU is working with larger Bryan/College Station/Brazos County administrations to deal with issues that relate to all parties (i.e., the university and the community)

19) President Hussey continues to work through the executive committees of the Faculty Senate, Distinguished Professors and Council of Principal Investigators to be able to communicate with the Faculty.

Questions asked of President Hussey:

1) Comments on possible certification that faculty are “fulfilling their work week responsibilities”.

   Provost Watson commented: Faculty will not be asked to “punch a clock”. Clearer mechanisms to allow faculty to have flexible work hours and paid time off during Monday-Friday 8-5 as needed are being formulated.
2) President Hussey has no new information concerning the President search process/progress. FS Speaker, Jim Woosley, commented that he also had no further updates.

Regular Faculty senate business:

- November 10th, 2015 minutes were approved.
- The consent agenda, which was huge, was approved with some items removed for consideration later in the meeting. A number of CVM courses were approved: VIBS 422, Endocrine Toxicology, VTPP 223 Design of Experiments in Physiology Research, VTPP 224 In Vitro Experimentation in Physiology Research, VTPP 234 Design of Models for Physiology Research, VTPP 235 Analysis and Validation of Models for Physiology Research, VIBS 621 – Endocrine Toxicology, VTMI 602 Animal Models of Obesity; Several CVM course changes were approved: VPAT 640 Advanced Mechanisms of Disease, VPAT 642 Mechanisms of Metabolic Disease. Changes in CVM undergraduate curricula were approved: BS in Biomedical Sciences, BS in University Studies – Biomedical Sciences, international Certificate in Cultural Competency and Communication in Spanish.
- Informational review items concerning three LAW courses were approved.
- The proposed revision to Student rule IX, which brings the student rule on smoking to be incompliance with the system rule on smoking was approved. It was noted that the current rule on smoking should be more clearly communicated to faculty and more strongly enforced. The current rule is that smoking is not allowed anywhere on campus.
- Students eligible to graduate in December 2014 were approved, including 3981 here in College station, 130 at Galveston, 8 at Qatar, 32 at the HSC and 43 in the Law school.
- A resolution from the Workplace Climate & Diversity committee was approved, but it is noted that the vote was not unanimous. This resolution emphasizes that both faculty and administration work towards better shared governance. Provost Watson commented that better faculty participation when opinions are solicited would be helpful to the process. Quite a bit of discussion ensued before the vote.
- The Faculty Senate when into Executive session for a short time to vote on several points.
- Committee of the Whole – Information was provided that Transportation Services will get a 3% increase in our parking fees every year for the next three years. This money will be used to build new parking facilities AND be used to pay for future street and sidewalk maintenance (needed due to deferred maintenance). What proportion of the additional fees will be used on each part will be provided to the Faculty Senate in the future.
- A question was raised on who decides on curricular changes in a college – the faculty of that college or the dean?
- After the Committee of the Whole ended, it was announced that there would not be a Faculty Senate meeting in January 2015. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be February 9, 2015.
- Faculty Senate adjourned at ~5:15 Pm.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Abbott