

April 13, 2015

Faculty Senate Meeting
601 Rudder Tower, 3:15 p.m.

CVM senators: Louie Abbotts, Joe Arosh, Judith Ball, Christine Budke, Tamy Frank-Cannon, Charles Long, Karen Russell, Karen Snowden

Guest Speaker - Provost Watson:

- Veteran's Park is no longer on the table as a potential "Get to the Grid!" parking location. TAMU is working with the city on alternate parking locations for home football games.
- Dr. Watson commented on the posting of SSNs on the web. The file was available online for approximately 3 weeks. She attributed this mistake to a new employee with inappropriate training and lack of oversight. The division responsible for the posting of the SSNs is currently being reorganized. A TAMU investigation suggests that the release of these data was limited (32 computers accessed the file of which 18 were internal) and they have been able to determine who looked at the file and why. Thus far, approximately 90 faculty members have reported fraudulent tax filings. However, more than a quarter of these individuals were not on the list of faculty who had their SSNs posted. She went on to say that this incident has made "us" aware of the larger problem of identity theft that is affecting the wider university community. All faculty members whose information was released should have received an email and are eligible to sign up for 2 free years of LifeLock monitoring. The administration is currently investigating LifeLock as a benefit service that would be offered to all employees or be made available to TAMU employees in some capacity. They are also working on how to give affected employees time off to deal with the consequences of identity theft. There was a discussion about whether or not faculty members are at higher risk due to their public position. In terms of preventing this mistake in the future, Dr. Watson stressed that the release of SSNs was due to a mistake and not a breach of security and that the law currently requires the university to submit instructor SSNs to the coordinating board.
- TAMU's current strategic plan expires at the end of 2015. The new plan will take us through 2020. Most colleges/units have provided input. Thus far, there have been 4 open forums as well as meeting with colleges and other units to obtain feedback. Dr. Watson indicated that the plan will focus on the "timely" graduation of students and the maintenance of deep, meaningful educational experiences rather than just trying to move students through the system faster. The Provost's webpage has a link to the draft strategic plan (<http://provost.tamu.edu/initiatives/strategic-planning-2015-2020>). Comments are welcome. The new president will most likely submit the new strategic plan in Fall 2015. A committee will likely be developed to provide ongoing feedback to the president regarding the strategic plan.
- A senator from the College of Liberal Arts asked a question regarding concealed handguns on campus and the potential cost associated with additional security measures associated with allowing concealed handguns in TAMU-owned buildings. Dr. Watson was unsure if TAMU had submitted a cost estimate. She stressed that the bigger concern was for the safety of human beings (e.g., in residence halls). The current law states that universities can restrict concealed carry in university-owned buildings. However, concealed carry cannot be restricted outside of buildings.

She went on to point out that TAMU doesn't do anything to enforce the current ban. The new proposed law would permit concealed carry in buildings if the gun's owner was at least 21 years of age and had the appropriate license. Dr. Watson made the point that this would not include most undergraduate students. Dr. Watson also made the Senate aware of a second proposed bill to allow open carry of handguns. She stressed multiple times during this discussion that she perceives the biggest issue as being the challenge for law enforcement to discern the good guys versus the bad guys in the event of an altercation on campus. One faculty senate member mentioned that concealed carry on campus may result in a negative perception for potential new hires.

Speaker Comments:

- An overview of recent Faculty Senate activities was provided, including senator participation in a joint faculty senate meeting with the University of Texas, the four strategic planning forums, a cultural diversity forum, and a faculty senators' meeting in Austin.

The minutes for the February 9, 2015 faculty senate meeting were approved as distributed.

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee – The committee is evaluating the shared use of roads (bicycle, walk, skate boards). The committee is also working on ways to allow faculty members to print composite photos for their courses through Howdy. They hope to have this feature available for the Fall 2015 semester.

Core Curriculum Committee – The committee will maintain the current International Culture and Diversity (ICD) requirements. However, ICD guidelines need to be updated. The committee hopes to have draft guidelines by September 2015 and open the guidelines for discussion in October 2015, with a Senate vote in November 2015. The goal will be to recertify courses for the Fall 2017 semester. A pilot project for core curriculum recertification is ongoing.

Budget Information Committee – (Please see attached Power Point presentation)

There was additional discussion about the cost of deferred maintenance and how deferred maintenance was defined.

New Business:

Proposed revisions to Student Rule 24, 26, 51, 58, and Appendix IX were tabled to give senators adequate time to review the proposed changes.

Committee of the Whole:

- A senator from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences urged the university to expand the number of recycling containers on campus.
- A senator from the College of Engineering provided an update on the use of credit card chip and pin technology.
- A senator urged everyone to not forget about foreign and graduate students when it comes to identity theft and fraud.