**FACULTY SENATE MEETING SUMMARY**

**October 12, 2015**

**http://facultysenate.tamu.edu**

**1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at ~3:20 pm by the Speaker of the

Faculty Senate, Professor Robert Strawser

**2) Guest Speakers:**

**a) Vice Provost Michael Benedik:** Dr. Benedik provided an update as chair of the

Faculty Evaluation and Post-Tenure Review (PTR) Task Force. The goals of the task

force are to: 1) compare TAMU with other comparable and aspirant institutions;

2) review college and departmental guidelines for PTR at TAMU, which differ greatly

among colleges and departments; 3) decide whether the current state of PTR is

acceptable or needs to have better guidance centrally to influence annual reviews as

well as tenure and PTRs; and 4) also consider how to measure/evaluate research,

teaching, and service. The task force has now met 3 times and will continue to meet

through the Fall semester.

**b) MSC Student Representatives (Patrick Glaze and Cassandra Rozinski):**

Student representatives from the MSC (Memorial Student Center) briefed the senate

on a new social program to be offered for all students, that would be 1 hour/week in the

MSC and would offer outside classroom learning experiences—this idea is based upon

The “Dr. Pepper Float” program held at Baylor University; students would interact with

faculty members to provide novel learning experiences.

**3) Speaker Comments:** The Speaker is meeting with each of the standing senate

committees (e.g., academic affairs, research, etc) and asking each committee to

provide 2-3 issues that the body of the senate should discuss.

**4) Approval of September 14, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:** The minutes

were approved as distributed, with the exception of minor editorial corrections.

**5) Consent Agenda:** The Mays Business School requested removal of three graduate

courses from the consent agenda (Biochem. 679, Biomed. 637, and Management 674) for further discussion; the Consent Agenda was otherwise approved.

**6) Informational Review Items:**  None

**7) Unfinished Business:**  It was noted from the previous Senate meeting, that there

were some undergraduate courses that failed to meet the published requirements for

courses because an excessive percentage of the grading was dependent upon class

participation. Therefore, the courses were removed from the curriculum and sent back

to the departments for revision.

**8) Old Business:**  None

**9) New Business:**

**Student Rule Changes:** Dr. David Parrish discussed proposed changes to student

rules. Proposed revisions to Rules 49, 50 and 57 were approved by the Senate,

proposed revisions to Rules 53 and 59 were rejected by the Senate, and were sent

back to committee. Other proposed changes to Student Rules # 1, 5, 8, 10, and 17

were tabled until the next Senate meeting.

**10) Information Only:** Faculty Senate Bylaw Revisions – Issues to be modified are:

**a) 120 members** of Senate would become the permanent number

**b) Elimination of Committee on Committees:** Since the C on Cs has been

responsible for making Faculty Senate committee assignments, the Bylaws

Committee needs to specify how committee assignments will be made in the future.

Thus, this issue was sent back to the Bylaws Committee for definition of the means

by which committee assignments will be made in the future.

**These issues will be sent out to the Body of the Senate after the committee**

**assignment issue is resolved by the Bylaws Committee.**

**11) Committee of the Whole:** Several issues were raised from the floor of the Senate

**a) new SRS Director** - the search for a new director is a high priority for the VPR’s

office, the new director will improve SRS operations, which have moved from the

System to TAMU

**b) eCampus** – concerns were raised about excessive down time, IT Services

needs to address this problem promptly.

**c) Smoking Concerns** – raised about smoking areas on main campus, especially

at the HSC, where there is a lack of signage for approved smoking areas

**d) Non-Tenure Track Faculty in College of Engineering** – Non-reappointment of

3 NTTF in College of Engineering was not handled in a professional or sensitive

manner.

**e) Skateboards on Campus** – A safety concern of skateboards on campus,

especially around the cyclotron facility

**f) Concealed Carry Handguns** – A survey from the Concealed Carry Handgun

Committee will be sent out to by e-mail to faculty, staff, and students, asking

if there are places on campus that concealed carry should NOT be allowed and

why.

**12) Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm