

Summary of Items from Faculty Senate Meeting Feb 11, 2013

CVM senators in attendance: Louise Abbott, Karen Snowden, Joe Arosh
agenda and attachments for the faculty senate meeting are available on the
faculty senate website: www.facultysenate.tamu.edu

The guest speaker to the February Faculty Senate meeting was Regent Elaine Mendoza (CV included in attachment A). She was appointed to the board in 2011. She reviewed recent funding cuts for higher education at the state level, public perceptions of higher education and outlined the approach of the TAMU Board of Regents for restoring some funding for the TAMU system during this state legislative session.

The minutes from the Jan 14, 2013 faculty senate meeting were approved with a minor revision (attachment B).

Coursework changes on the consent agenda (attachments C and D) were approved without discussion.

Speaker Comments:

- Dr. Stallone noted that the merger of the Health Science Center and TAMU was progressing. Current discussions still need to address the issues/appointments associated with faculty positions/titles as the HSC faculty move back to TAMU. Other items of discussion include the merger of the 2 faculty senate groups.
- the joint meeting of the University of Texas and TAMU faculty senates will occur in Austin on Feb 25, 2013.
- Plans for the new 25/25 engineering initiative are moving forward (25,000 engineering students by the year 2025).
- Issues with the revised core curriculum (whether to include upper level courses with prerequisites in the core curriculum) were addressed in New Business.

Old Business: A proposed rule change regarding the retention of college deans was removed from the table and the motion (made at the Jan 14 senate meeting) was passed (attachment F).

New Business:

- There is still controversy regarding whether to accept upper division courses with prerequisites in the core curriculum. After much discussion and a close vote, the resolution (attachment G) to amend the previously adopted resolution FS.29.127 was passed.
- Proposed revisions to TAMU student rules Section 1.8 (attachment H) and Section 1.1.3 (attachment I) were approved.

Committee of the Whole:

- A senator (Stadleman) noted that it was valuable for the TAMU and UT faculty senates to meet for discussion of common issues, changes and progress. It was recommended that a similar joint meeting be established between the faculty senates of Blinn College and TAMU. The idea

was well received, and the executive council will explore the possibilities of establishing future joint meetings with the Blinn faculty senate.

- A senator (Louder) stated that she had informal communications with student senators sharing their concerns regarding the plans for students to cover some of the expenses for Kyle Field renovations. The administration has proposed options for collection of funds from students, and the student senate has rebutted with another option (increased cost of sports passes; initiating a new student fee; redirecting existing student fees from library services and IT/computer support services to cover part of the athletic facilities development/renovation). The faculty senate approved an emergency resolution opposing the use of student fees for the development/renovation of Kyle Field.

- It was noted that at several universities, the number of weekly work hours of part-time employees is being limited in order to keep the institution from having to cover increased health care benefits costs as required by new Obama-care federal legislation. This situation is being monitored by the SEBAC committee.