

## Faculty Senate Minutes – March 18, 2013

CVM senators attending: Louise Abbott, Karen Russell, John Stallone (speaker)

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm and we heard from guest speaker, Dean M. Katherine Banks, Dwight Look College of Engineering. She discussed the plans for increased student enrollment in the College of Engineering. These are the highlights of her 1 hour presentation:

- 1) Current enrollment is approximately 12,000 students total (undergrad + graduate)
- 2) Goal is to have 25,000 engineering students by 2025 in a ratio of 3 undergraduates to 1 graduate student.
- 3) The total number includes all types of students: full time, part time, on line/distance
- 4) The increase will occur gradually, approximately 6-10% annually.
- 5) The increase will vary by department – some departments increasing students more than others.
- 6) A new education building is planned that will cost \$137 million [eclipsing our teaching building of \$120 million] and have 300,000 square feet of assignable space – it will open in 2016/2017. \$62 million will come from former students; the rest from TAMU system. There will be an additional \$38 million for program support [not sure where that will come from]
- 7) A number of questions still need to be answered: how will increasing the number of engineering students affect the rest of campus? How will recruitment/retention of minority and women students be implemented? Will there be increased numbers of faculty hires in engineering?

There were additional comments, but these are the highlights – see one of the attending senators or the official faculty senate minutes when they appear at the faculty senate website (<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>)

### Speaker Comments;

- 1) Faculty senate elections are next month
- 2) There will be a review of TAMU administration looking for ways to increase efficiency and cost savings and still positively impact teaching, research and service.  
Faculty will be involved in the review in some capacity, but proposals will be sought from outside companies.  
This review will focus on the college level and above to the level of VPs, although there could be some examination of department level administration
- 3) The joint UT/TAMU faculty senate meeting was held recently. A summary will be sent.
- 4) A joint HSC/TAMU committee has been convened to examine the question of faculty titles that is a sticking point in the merger of these two institutions.
- 5) The question of how students will pay for part of the new stadium is not clear but the new stadium will go forward no matter what and students have traditionally provided some funds for new stadiums.

The February faculty senate minutes and consent agenda were approved.

A report from SEBAC (System Employee's Benefits Advisory Committee) was presented. A number of points were made – see one of the attending senators or the official faculty senate minutes when they appear at the faculty senate website (<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>) for more details. Here are the highlights:

- 1) Due to economies of scale, the cost for health insurance decreased slightly per person, but this decrease will be offset by increases in health care costs due to changes in federal policy this fiscal year.
- 2) Changes in federal health care policy will require part-time employees working 30 or more hours per week to be covered as full-time employees. This is not current TAMU policy. This change will include summer student workers. The impact of this change in policy is not yet clear.
- 3) The TX legislature has a bill pending that is a plus-one plan with no state contribution, that has some different aspects to it that are more like the state employee retirement system. Not sure how this will play out yet.
- 4) TAMUS will carry out a "wellness survey" with the goal of finding ways to reduce claims through prevention.

SEBAC will survey employees to find how they like the seven active OPR/TDA vendors.