Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate and University of Texas-Austin Faculty Council

March 3, 2014

The meeting convened at 10:30 am for informal conversation. Lunch was served in the TAMU MSC.

The Presidents, Provosts and the Speakers (of Faculty Senate/Council) from both universities spoke during and immediately after lunch.  They also took questions from the audience.  Three concurrent breakout sessions were held after lunch and then summarized when the group came back together at the end of the meeting.  The three sessions were:

1)    MOOCs and other teaching related environment issues and innovations in technology. A number of issues were discussed with respect to allowing credit for MOOCs and the problem of dual credit allowances and transfer credits, in general.  An idea was floated to consider joint MOOCs between our two institutions.

2)    Influences external entities have on universities.  No big surprises here – three important entities identified: the system, the regents, the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board  (THECB).  One idea raised was to increase interaction of the Faculty Senate/ Council members with the Board and Staff members of the THECB.  THECB is influencing curriculum to a large extent at both institutions and pushback by faculty was recommended.

3)    Research as it affects tenure of young faculty.  After much wailing and gnashing of teeth concerning IDC returns (an issue at both institutions), this group suggested pursuing an internal grant competition for young faculty.  It was generally recognized that tenure is more difficult to obtain at this time at our tier one research institutions.

More information can be obtained at the Faculty Senate Website.    [http://facultysenate.tamu.edu](http://facultysenate.tamu.edu/)/

Respectfully submitted,  Louise Abbott