**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – CORRECTED**

**April 14, 2014**

## No guest speaker this month. The February 10, 2014 minutes were approved, as was the consent agenda. Committee reports were heard from the planning committee, SEBAC, and the legislative committee. The Planning Committee discussed several points: 1) be sure to get your wellness exam before June 30, 2014 (and SPOUSES too) if you have not done so already this fiscal year. If you do not you will have to pay a penalty $30.00 each month for health insurance in the next fiscal year. This is also true for SPOUSES. Be sure to have your physician's office use the correct "code" and to list this code “first” on the insurance forms in order to have your wellness exam "count".  [Information I got from Scott&White (S&W) on Tuesday- S&W is “rationing” Wellness exam appointments and some S&W doctors are scheduling for the end of May and into June NOW. Make your appointment soon if you have not done so already.] 2) Expect some changes to our email systems (faculty and students) to come in the future. The MS Exchange server will be maintained for faculty, but students will soon transition to Google Apps for Education. 3) The planning committee has a committee that is examining current and proposed future bicycle use on the TAMU campus, so if you have any input you can contact the faculty senate office ([Senate@tamu.edu](mailto:Senate@tamu.edu)) and ask to connect to the planning committee or have your message forwarded. 4) Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) fees take effect every year through 2018.  The latest fee took effect January 1, 2014, and requires Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) to pay $259,676 per month to other states' insurance exchanges, which have a loss due to their not signing up enough young healthy people for "Obamacare" to make their plans actuarially sound. [The monthly plan income for the TAMUS is around 19 million dollars, so $259,676 is about 1.37% - this is additional information provided by Speaker Daugherity at my request.] The TAMUS is "self-insured", which means that TAMUS operates like its own insurance company, with a pooled (operating) fund and a reserve (asset) fund.  Employee premiums and the state employee contribution are income and go into the pooled fund.

## SEBAC is an advisory group that makes recommendations to The Texas A&M University System administration on issues relating to employee benefits. 1) SEBAC reported that the Scott and White facility use fee that we heard about in February has been rescinded (our voices were heard!). 2) In future years we will see increases in vision and dental insurance coverage. 3) Next month we expect to hear the report on the ORP and TDA vendor survey that we were asked to fill out last month.

## Legislative Affairs and Outreach Committee reported a recent discussion with a legislator regarding concealed/carry issues with weapons on the campus.  Generally faculty oppose having guns on campus while legislators are generally supportive of that proposed change.

## Revisions to University Rule 12.01.99.M2 were discussed – the changes will be voted on at the next Faculty Senate Meeting. This rule covers Academic Freedom, Responsibility, Tenure and Promotion. Dean of Faculties – Michael Benedick suggested all faculty should read this rule at some point in their career. The new faculty titles that have been adopted over the past several years were added to the rule, the tenure mediation committee was abolished because it never met and annual review processes were clarified. The language was clarified in multiple places. Detailed information regarding these changes can be found as Attachment X in the April 14, 2014 agenda at the faculty senate website ([http://facultysenate.tamu.edu](http://facultysenate.tamu.edu/)).

## Changes to Student Rule 57 were approved that clarified language. Rule 57 covers the undergraduate academic appeals panel and no substantive changes were made. In addition, seven different Student Rules (7,10.5, 30, 40, 41.2.1.2, 55 and 60) were proposed and passed. These were minor changes – I will only mention one specifically as it applies to the Veterinary Professional Program. The change approved for Student Rule 41.2.1.2 will allow Veterinary Students with a GPA of 2.5 and above to be able to serve in leadership roles in student government and student committees. The University minimum GPA in general is 3.0, so this provides an exception to the rule for Veterinary Professional Students only.

## An Executive Committee Resolution was amended and approved that allows three professional programs that recently joined TAMU to keep their current + and – grading systems that they had before joining TAMU. These three professional programs are: JD, MD and DDS. This does not apply to any other part of TAMU and it does not preclude future discussions of changes to current TAMU grading policies.

## Degree candidates for May graduation were approved. The Faculty senate went into executive committee to consider honorary degrees and then came out to go into the committee of the whole.

## The Telling Project (*Telling Aggieland*) – will present narratives about experiences of our students who are veterans; there are 900+ veterans who are students at TAMU. Telling Aggieland features stories of ten Aggie veterans and family members. Performances run April 29, 30, and May 1, 2014 at 7 pm in the Rudder Theater. Tickets are free and will be available at the MSC Box Office now.

## Dr. Glenn Laine (VPR for Research) and others discussed the Faculty Research Development Fund and general redistribution of indirect cost (IDC) funds. Which are actually called Facilities and Administrative Earnings. The full report on these funds can be seen in the Council of Principal Investigators (CPI) report. The Faculty Research Development Fund is the novel part that we have not had before. This money is to be allocated internally to act as seed money to attract exceptionally large extramural grants (~$20 million+ grants). They expect to have $7 to 9 million annually to distribute.

## Respectfully submitted, Louise Abbott