

MINUTES Faculty Senate Meeting, April 8, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM in Room 601, Rudder Tower

CVM senators present: Louise Abbott, Michelle Pine, Karen Russell and Speaker, John Stallone

Our Guest Speaker was Lt. Gen. Joe Weber USMC (Ret.), Vice President for Student Affairs

General Weber addressed the faculty senate for approximately one hour, making comments about TAMU student affairs and addressing questions raised by senators. His general comments outlined his philosophy towards his job: There is a place for everyone at TAMU; he mentioned 7 specific points:

- 1) He is getting student affairs involved in the academic success center to help students get off academic probation sooner. This is being done in conjunction with college level academic counseling.
- 2) His office is working to improve student housing and the on-campus living experience at TAMU. He hopes to improve the corps residence halls in the future. There are plans to have more upper division undergraduate and graduate student housing units on West campus, with the idea of having freshman stay more in the central campus area.
- 3) There was a comprehensive review (CPR) of student activities and a few suggestions were made via this outside the campus review to improve how student activities are conducted on this campus to improve the ability of students to learn more from the student activities in which they are involved.
- 4) It has been noted that more space / better quality childcare center – or child development center is needed on our campus. This is being investigated but the additional money needed to expand/improve has not been identified.
- 5) It is General Weber's opinion that there will not be outsourcing for residence halls – they are running at nearly 100% capacity at this time and they are not losing money so why change a win-win situation?
- 6) General Weber made some general comments about the student government incident that happened last week, saying that we all need to continue to dialog about difficult issues.
- 7) Richard Stadelmann asked General Weber about the debate team that was started in 1969 (I think he was the faculty "mentor" at that time for the team). He indicated that the debate team had "gone downhill" from then because there is no coach, no financial support (or minimal support at best), and no scholarship was associated with it. However, if Student Affairs is willing to work with Academic Affairs to promote the debate team and put some resources behind it, a revitalized debate team could be beneficial for: 1) Communication, 2) Student Affairs, 3) Academic Affairs, and 4) Scholarship.

Comments from Faculty Senate Speaker, John Stallone

- 1) 24 distinguished achievement awards for 2013 were announced last week.
- 2) The faculty senate will continue to support 2 to 4 Aggie Spirit awards this year.
- 3) Nominations are being sought for the Stadelmann award that recognizes an exemplary first term TAMU faculty senator.
- 4) The Faculty Ombudsperson position is open and soon an announcement will come out to officially solicit applications / nominations for this position – stay tuned.....
- 5) April 26, 2013 is faculty Jazz Night at the University club. There will be free snacks, and good jazz to listen to as well as a time to converse with faculty from other parts of the campus.

March 18, 2013 faculty senate meeting minutes were approved

The Consent Agenda was approved.

This included approval of a new VIBS 277 course (cross-listed as NRSC 277) Introduction to Neuroscience – taught by Dr. Gladys Ko in the VIBS department. No other course additions / changes were made for CVMBS courses.

Committee reports were made:

- 1) Workplace-Climate-Diversity Committee (formerly the Personnel committee) the statement on workplace bullying was rejected by the system Office of General Counsel (OGC) because it was too broad. The committee is asking (just asking) the Dean of Faculties to include anti-bullying language to statements concerning faculty grievance policies and also asking that similar language be included at the department level.

- 2) Senator Stadelmann reported that the Blinn Faculty Senate is very supportive of closer ties / integration between the TAMU Faculty Senate and the Blinn Faculty Senate. [Note added here – the TAMU Faculty Senate expressed similar interest at a previous TAMU Faculty Senate meeting.]
- 3) New Business – the faculty senate considered a nomination for an Honorary Degree Candidate and proposed revisions to TAMU student rules, sections 8.2, 14.2, 13.2, 11, and 40 were mentioned – voting on revisions will occur at the May Faculty Senate meeting. You can see these revisions at the Faculty Senate Website – as attachment M to the April agenda. <http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

Several questions were raised in the committee of the whole:

- 1) Engineering research faculty are charged \$3.00/square foot for their lab space – are they paying twice? No, the engineering faculty were getting more of the indirect costs given back to them from their college before and this is now how they pay for their services, electricity, etc.
- 2) What happens to resolutions made by the faculty senate? They all are given to the President, who can choose to act on them or not.
- 3) It was noted that when the University surveyed the students about using student activity money to help pay for stadium renovations / rebuilding, faculty and staff also were surveyed. A knowledgeable faculty senator informed us that when the survey results were assessed, the faculty and staff responses were removed from the results. The question asked was ---- How did the administration know which responses were from students and which were from faculty and staff? This question was put to Michael Benedik, Dean of Faculties and his response was that he did not know. This raised some concern among the senators present.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Louise Abbott