FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
April 11, 2011
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower
http://facultysenate.tamu.edu


Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Speaker-Elect Benedik at 3:20 P.M and announced that Speaker Strawser would be arriving shortly. There were no senators present via videoconferencing. A collection was taken to fund the annual Aggie Spirit award for a student who has overcome adversity.

The February 14 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved with spelling correction to Senator Mathewson's name under Committee of the Whole.

Motion Passed
FS.28.115
Attachment A

Consent Agenda
Senator Halter requested that attachment H and Senator Klein requested that attachment N be removed from the agenda. The remaining items on Consent Agenda were approved.

GRADUATE COUNCIL
New Courses - March 3, 2011
ALEC 617 Leadership in Organizational Culture and Ethics
ALEC 652 Images of Agriculture: Visual Communication Research
BICH 676 Bacteriophage Biology
BICH 677 Chemical Genetics and Drug Discovery
ENTO 614 Insect Community Ecology
FSTC 669 Experimental Nutrition & Food Science Laboratory
NUTR 669 Experimental Nutrition & Food Science Laboratory
PSAA 601 Foundations of Public Service

Motion Passed
FS.28.116
Attachment B

Course Changes - March 3, 2011
ARCH 643 Software Development for Building Design
EPSY 632 Research in Second Language Education

Motion Passed
FS.28.117
Attachment C

Special Consideration - March 3, 2011
College of Science
Request for the Graduate Degree Programs in Zoology and Botany to be discontinued and officially removed from the Texas A&M University Degree Inventory as of September 1, 2013

Motion Passed
FS.28.118
Attachment D

Special Consideration - March 3, 2011
College of Education and Human Development
Request to approve the revised Athletic Training Master's Degree

Motion Passed
FS.28.119
Attachment E
UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Courses - February 11, 2011
FIVS 421 Latent Print Processing
FIVS 422 Crime Scene Investigation

Change in Courses - February 11, 2011
FIVS 316 Biotechnology & Forensics
MODL 250 Contemporary Spanish Culture
MODL 260 Contemporary Mexican Culture
MODL 352 Hispanic Literature and Film
MODL 362 Hispanic Literature in the United States
MODL 363 Borderlands: U.S. and Mexico
MODL 364 Diversity Lessons from Medieval Spain

Change in Curriculum - February 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Entomology
B.S. in Entomology

Change in Curriculum - February 11, 2011
Dwight Look College of Engineering
Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution
B.S. in Engineering Technology
Telecommunications Engineering Technology Option

Special Consideration - February 11, 2011
College of Liberal Arts
Department of English
Linguistics Minor – request to withdraw minor

Special Consideration - February 11, 2011
College of Liberal Arts
Department of English
Professional Writing Minor – request to withdraw minor

Change in Curriculum - March 11, 2011
Mays Business School
B.B.A. in Business Honors
Department of Accounting
B.B.A. in Accounting
Department of Finance
B.B.A. in Finance
Department of Information and Operations Management
B.B.A. in Information and Operations Management
Management Information Systems Track
Supply Chain Management Track
Department of Management
B.B.A. in Management
Department of Marketing
B.B.A. in Marketing
Committee Reports

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Amendment to the Constitution

Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment O. Dale Rice (Liberal Arts) offered an amendment which, after accepting friendly rephrasing by Antonio Cepeda-Benito, would modify the first part to read “and teaches full time on the College Station campus or its branches.” The amendment died for lack of a second. Further discussion ensued, but since there was no clear understanding of how many hours counted as full time, whether or not faculty development leave was included, and so forth, the item was sent back to committee for clarification.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

University Curriculum Committee (UCC) changes to Faculty Senate Bylaws

Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment P. Karan Watson asked if we really need two curriculum committees (graduate and undergraduate). Andrew Klein (Geosciences) said one reason is that graduate curriculum committee (GCC) members may not wish to deal with the massive number of undergraduate courses. Hank Walker (Engineering) said he preferred two committees since they dealt with separate issues and had different paths for course approval. Karan Watson said she thought a college-level GCC made sense, but not a university-wide one. She also said that the GCC was originally intended to be composed of faculty senators, not associate deans, and that the GCC used to set policy which the Academic Operations Committee and the Graduate Operations Committee then implemented. She asked if the faculty senate wanted to go back to that model. Kim Hill (Liberal Arts) asked for a vote and for the broader issues to be referred to the Executive Committee. The attachment passed.

Resolution on Distinguished Professor Rule

Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment Q. Gary Varner asked if there is any standard way of defining “distinguished professor” among universities; Speaker-Elect Benedik said no. Chris Mathewson said “regents professor” is mostly service; Secretary Daugherity said the consensus of the last Faculty Senate meeting and of the Executive Committee was that a broader definition was needed. Speaker-Elect Benedik explained the motion and emphasized the distinction between an “honor” and a “rank”; he pointed out that the motion lets the Faculty Senate control the definition of “university professor” as a rank. Karan Watson noted that the Faculty Senate already has a say on ranks, under its constitution. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Revisions to Student Rules 10.1 and 10.2

As the first item of unfinished business, Attachment N was opened for discussion. Andrew Klein (Geosciences) said that Pam Matthews had offered editorial additions to clarify online versus paper. He then asked whether or not test dates have to be included, and moved that the item be returned to committee. The motion to return was seconded and passed.

Change in Curriculum - February 11, 2011

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Entomology
B.S. in Forensic and Investigative Sciences

Not Passed
Pre-Law Emphasis
Science Emphasis

Attachment H was discussed next. Gary Halter (Liberal Arts) said that for a “pre-law” emphasis he wanted to see lots of reading and writing courses (e.g., from liberal arts and political science) to prepare students to pass the LSAT, and therefore moved to return the item. The motion was seconded. Adam Myers (Business) asked if anybody with a law degree had reviewed this. Dale Rice (Liberal Arts) introduced Associate Dean of Liberal Arts Michael Stephenson, who said they had looked at a pre-law track but had opted not to specify one; they just gave a list of liberal arts courses that might be appropriate. Kim Hill (Liberal Arts) said the American Bar Association says just about any degree could be a pre-law degree. Adam Myers (Business) stated the attachment contained a footnote which listed myriad directed electives that were reading and writing courses. Pam Matthews said critical thinking is one of the outcomes required for all undergraduate degrees. Secretary Daugherity recommended consulting with the Office of Professional School Advising. The motion to return the item to committee was passed.

Committee of the Whole

There being no further items on the agenda, Speaker Strawser turned the chair over to Speaker-Elect Benedik to convene the Committee of the Whole.

Speaker Strawser reported that after Antonio Cepeda-Benito opened a forum for discussion on guns in classrooms, they wrote a joint letter encouraging faculty participation and the President’s Office ordered it taken down. They were also charged with an ethics violation; that investigation is ongoing. He noted that at the joint meeting of the Faculty Senate and the UT Faculty Council a resolution was passed supporting the UT chancellor’s letter opposing guns in classrooms. Antonio Cepeda-Benito said he was surprised to hear that the investigation was ongoing, since he had received a letter saying there was nothing wrong with his actions. Speaker Strawser said he had been called to meet again [with the TAMU System] although the university investigation was complete. Parliamentarian Stadelmann said he was always careful not to use university letterhead or his university title when expressing an opinion [about legislation]. He said this area of ethics is confusing—sometimes faculty have been encouraged to voice their opinions and sometimes they have been encouraged not to voice their opinions. Antonio Cepeda-Benito said that he feels issues like this which impact the university must be able to be discussed, or what is a university?

Speaker-Elect Benedik said that was an important service, and expressed hope that the issue might be quickly resolved, so that there is no chilling effect. He also reported further on the joint meeting March 7, 2011, at the University of Texas with their Faculty Council. There were short presentations by the presidents and provosts (with Pam Matthews substituting for Karan Watson), and a longer presentation by Representative Dan Branch about the political realities of the current legislative session. The attendees broke up into groups to address the issues of faculty evaluations, faculty input to budget decisions, and Texas Public Policy Foundation efforts to “reform” higher education. After reassembling in plenary session the attendees passed a resolution “strongly and unequivocally” supporting “Chancellor Cigarroa’s February 24, 2011 letter to Governor Perry regarding proposed legislation on concealed weapons” and concluding that “on balance, concealed weapons will make each campus a ‘less-safe’ environment.”

Joe Weber said that administrators do care about the issue, and 43 of the student affairs directors around the state did write a joint letter to the legislature asking them to think carefully before approving guns in classrooms. He also announced the upcoming Parent’s Weekend and thanked deans for participating. Gary Halter (Liberal Arts) said he didn’t see the Chancellor or President communicating with the legislature and the governor about the situation.

Jonathan Coopersmith (Liberal Arts) commended the UT president and chancellor for very visibly communicating to the public the importance of tier-one research universities and membership in AAU. He also asked about the current dependent audit of half the employees of the TAMU System and asked that the number of ineligible dependents found be evaluated to see if the savings justified the cost of the audit, before auditing the remaining half, since in this budget crunch we want to make sure our dollars are wisely used. Secretary Daugherity explained the history of the dependent audit.

Speaker-Elect Benedik announced that the president and provost will host a reception for the faculty senate after the next meeting, May 9, 2011. He also announced that a quorum was present.

Speaker Strawser said that if the faculty senate wishes to have meaningful input in the shared governance of the university, we must have good people run for senate and officer positions. He encouraged faculty to step forward and become more involved (or else he might run again). Parliamentarian Stadelmann confirmed that we did have a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, and reminded senators who will be away for the summer or otherwise absent to be sure to notify the senate office so their absences will not count against a quorum.

Speaker-Elect Benedik also encouraged people to think seriously about running for offices and the Executive Committee.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.