FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
April 9, 2012
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower
http://facultysenate.tamu.edu


Call to Order:
Speaker Benedik called the meeting to order at 3:18 P.M. There were two senators from Qatar and two senators from Galveston present via videoconferencing.

Speaker Comments:
Speaker Benedik called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

Speaker Benedik mentioned that the Aggie Spirit Award will be presented at the May meeting and we passed the hat for donations.

Speaker Benedik announced that Vanessa Foster will be leaving the Faculty Senate Office.

He stated that this past week we were visited by the SACS accreditation team who reviewed both all the documentation required for accreditation as well as the QEP plan.

Speaker Benedik mentioned that he and Speaker-elect Stallone met with Chancellor Sharp after the last Senate meeting. They summarized as best as they could the eloquent comments made at the last Senate meeting and they repeatedly sent the message that the review process needs to be open and transparent. They suggested that some faculty member as well other university constituents be part of the process. Since that meeting there have been some significant changes.

Guest Speaker:
President Loftin

Speaker Benedik then invited President Loftin to address the senate. He summarized the history of the SACS accreditation process which culminated with an on-site committee visit last week, and said that their oral exit interview identified forthcoming findings in the areas of educational programs, educational support services, research within the educational mission, competence of our faculty (only 10 of our over 3000 faculty did not have adequately documented credentials), and a financial aid audit. Regarding TAMU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), they will address administrative support services and ask TAMU to demonstrate that sufficient resources to fund the QEP will be provided.

President Loftin said the dining services RFP’s will be reviewed by a broad-based committee including students and faculty, some with special expertise in outsourcing. He said there is no pre-determined outcome regarding whether or not to outsource dining services. TAMU already had a consultant looking at dining services; their report is due today.

He said the chancellor intends to appoint a single committee to review the proposals submitted for landscaping, custodial, and maintenance services and to submit the chancellor’s recommendations to the Board of Regents in early May.

The tuition and fee advisory committee recommended on February 15th that TAMU request a 3.95% increase in tuition. President Loftin is talking to regents individually about this. Regent Wilson is holding a hearing April 20th on tuition increase requests from all ten campuses. President Loftin said that if no tuition increase is approved, it will be a very challenging time for TAMU; leading up to the next legislative session in January there are substantial competing demands on the state budget for health, K-12 education, etc.

Kathryn Mackenzie (Education and Human Development) asked why outsourcing is being done at the system level instead of at the university. President Loftin replied that he is also concerned; since 99% of dining services in Brazos County is TAMU the chancellor returned responsibility for those RFP’s to TAMU, but the other areas are broader than TAMU and so will be done at the system level.

Clint Magill (Agriculture and Life Sciences) asked if it is true that TAMU will add 10,000 new students in the next three years. President Loftin said there is nothing official; he expects to continue the same size freshman class, about 8500. (Admission offers are made to about 17,000, of which about 50% come.)
He said any increase would be in the number of transfer and graduate students; this is decentralized at the college level and the numbers are down from previous years. We can expand in selected areas where we have capacity and that capacity is in areas important to the state.

Jonathan Coopersmith (Liberal Arts) asked about plans for the football stadium and deferred maintenance. President Loftin replied that the 12th Man Foundation has engaged a firm to produce a large number of design concepts for renovation of the football stadium, to be reviewed by fans. The renovation selected will be reported back in September. He said the deferred maintenance budget has been increased from $2 million per year to $15 million per year; he thinks it should be around $25 million per year. New construction will continue but some rehabilitation is underway as well (e.g., the Scoates, Francis, and Williams Buildings).

There was further discussion of outsourcing and where any money saved would go. President Loftin said that dining revenue is primarily from customers and that his view is that it should be essentially neutral, charging what is needed to provide the necessary level of service.

The March 19 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved. Motion Passed FS.29.173

**Consent Agenda**  The consent agenda was approved as submitted.

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**New Courses - March 1, 2012**
- INTA 663 International Transfer Pricing
- NRSC 698 Behavior, Genes, and Evolution
- NUEN 670 Introduction to Radiotherapy Physics
- VIZA 693 Professional Study

**Change in Courses - March 1, 2012**
- BIOT 684 Directed Professional Internship
- ESSM 612 Rangeland Vegetation Management

**Course Withdrawals - March 1, 2012**
- MKTG 679 Retail Mgmt & Consulting
- PSAA 662 Health System Plans and Policy

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**Withdrawal of Courses - March 9, 2012**
- INFO 304 Business Forecasting Methods
- INFO 362 Total Quality Management
- INFO 432 Software Quality & Measurement in Information Systems
- INFO 437 Knowledge Management
- INFO 458 Simulation
- MKTG 344 Marketing Channels Management

**New Course - March 19, 2012**
- MASE 474 Port and Harbor Engineering

**Change in Curriculum - March 19, 2012**
- Department of Marine Sciences
- B.S. in Ocean and Coastal Resources

**Texas A&M University at Galveston**

**New Course - March 19, 2012**
- MASE 474 Port and Harbor Engineering

**W-COURSES**

**March 12, 2012**

**C certification:**
- MARA 416 Port Operations, Administration and Economics

**W recertification:**
- ENDS 112 Environmental Responsibilities and Design
- INFO 465 Information Technology for Supply Chain Management
- PHIL/ENGR 482 Engineering and Ethics
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Proposed Revisions to Student Rule 1.7

Proposed Revisions to Student Rule 7.3

Proposed Revisions to Student Rule 8.4.3

End of Consent Agenda

Committee Reports

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AAC Report
Motion Passed FS.29.184
Attachment L
Secretary Daugherity moved approval of Attachment L. Brian Perkins, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented the report. The proposal to eliminate the “Freshman Grade Exclusion” was initiated by students since the grade for the excluded course remained on the transcript, with the result that some graduate schools included it in the student’s GPR although TAMU does not. The proposal to reduce the number of Q-drops to 4 for all students (subject to the state limit of 6, which might apply to transfer students) but to extend the deadline to the 60th class day. Extensive discussion followed until Andrew Klein (Geosciences) called the question. The motion passed.

CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL
New Core Curriculum for 2014
Motion Passed FS.29.184
Attachment M
Secretary Daugherity moved approval of Attachment M. Dale Rice and Janice Epstein, co-chairs of the Core Curriculum Council, summarized the process leading to this proposal, and listed its major points: dropping the two-tier science program; assigning the coordinating board’s 6 “floating hours” as 3 to math and 3 to science; establishing a four-year recertification cycle for all courses; and only allowing lower-division courses to be in the new core. After the following editorial corrections:

Philosophy, Culture and Language, 3 hours
Behavioral and Social Science, 3 hours

there was considerable discussion, especially regarding the restriction to lower-division courses, which Ray James said would profoundly impact Engineering, and Darryl De Ruiter (Liberal Arts) said would also affect Anthropology. Ed Harris (Liberal Arts) declared his vested interest, as an instructor in a current upper-division core curriculum course, and moved to strike “lower-division”. The motion was seconded.

Andrew Klein (Geosciences) spoke against the amendment, and a statement from the student government association in support of the amendment was read. Ed Harris asked to withdraw his amendment and then offer a new amendment but the original seconder did not agree.

After additional discussion Gene Nelson (Agriculture) moved to table, but was pre-empted by a quorum call, which failed to produce a quorum. Consequently, this item will be taken up as unfinished business at the next regular faculty senate meeting.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting was concluded.

New Business

Committee of the Whole

Adjourn